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### **Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, Inc.**

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Washington, DC 20037  
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September 12, 2007

Governor Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 511, 609 and 756**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation (MVFR), the oldest national organization of murder victim family members and families of the executed who oppose capital punishment, I am writing to express our support for SB 511 (requiring electronic recording of interrogations), SB 609 (requiring corroboration for jailhouse informants), and SB 756 (requiring new guidelines for eyewitness identification procedures).

DNA evidence has proven that innocent people are being convicted and sentenced to prison and even death in far greater numbers than we ever imagined. Wrongful convictions punish the innocent while leaving predators on our streets and create further guilt and anxiety for the victims. This is a failure our system cannot afford.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice was established by California State Senate Resolution No. 44 "to study and review the administration of criminal justice in California, determine the extent to which that process has failed in the past," and recommend proposals to ensure that the administration of criminal justice in California is just, fair and accurate. Chaired by John Van de Kamp, the former Attorney General and former Los Angeles County District Attorney, this bipartisan commission is composed of a victims rights advocate, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and defense attorneys.

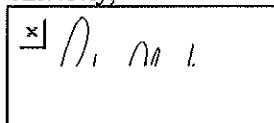
The Commission has conducted hearings, reviewed scientific evidence, consulted experts, and listened to personal testimonials. Based on this evidence, the Commission has issued a series of unanimous recommendations for reforms needed to prevent wrongful convictions in this state. These three bills will implement the most basic and most urgently needed reforms. Specifically,

- SB 511 will require electronic recording of custodial interrogations in violent felony cases. Research has shown that recording of interrogations is the best method to detect and prevent false confessions.
- SB 609 will require corroboration of testimony by jailhouse informants. We know that informants often lie to get out of jail. Thus, we should require some evidence to show they are telling the truth.

- SB 756 will require the Attorney General to issue guidelines for eyewitness identification procedures. Scientific research shows that there are better ways to conduct lineups than are now used.

MVFR strongly supports the legislative reforms recommended by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice and urges signature of SB 511, 609, and 756.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature appears to be "Pat Clark". In the top-left corner of the box, there is a small icon of a document with a checkmark.

Pat Clark  
Chair, MVFR Board of Directors

cc: California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice via fax: (408) 554-5026