

**8-23-07**

Senator Gloria Romero,  
Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas,  
and Senator Elaine Alquist

State Capitol, Room 313 Sacramento,  
CA 95814

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

Dear Senators: On behalf of

**Idriss Stolley Foundation.  
Education Not Incarceration SF Chapter  
SF\_Village\_Voice Community Radio**

I, meshá Mongé-Irizarry, director of the above organizations, 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 in far greater numbers than we ever imagined. Each time an innocent person is wrongfully convicted, the harm falls not only on that person but also on the community and the crime victims, as each wrongful conviction leaves the true perpetrator on the streets to hurt more people.

Convicting the guilty while protecting the innocent is the most fundamental goal of our criminal justice system. Yet, all too often, we fall short.

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.

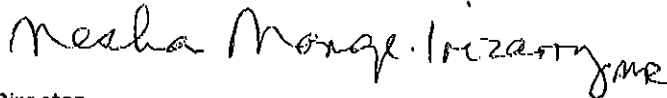
**SB 609** will require corroboration of testimony by jailhouse informants. We know that informants often lie to get out of jail. Thus, we should require some evidence to show they are telling the truth.

**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.

Idriss Stelley Foundation,  
The SF Chapter of Education Not Incarceration  
and SF\_Village\_Voice Community Radio

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

Sincerely,



Director

and host of :

- \* **SF AACPRB** (African American Community Policing Relations Board, South East Branch)
- \* **SF Bayview CEDP** (Campaign to end the death penalty, and Save Kevin Copper Campaign)

Member of :

- \* **YEFAB** (Youth Empowerment Funding Advisory Board, SF)
- \* **Hurricane Relief Board**
- \* **BlackBrownUnity National Movement**
- \* **Bay Area Racial Justice Brigade**
- \* **We\_Are\_The\_Ones\_We\_Have\_Been\_Waiting\_For Movement** (honoring a 1000 Women who make a substantial difference in our Peaceful World, spearheaded by Dorinda Moreno, Mother of the Xicano Moratorium).

**SF Bayview National Black Newspaper** reporter.