

The Justice & Reconciliation Project

A California Nonprofit Corporation

PO Box 2051
Loomis, CA 95650

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Tel:
530-368-2028
E-mail:
jrp@mindsync.com
website:
www.thejrp.org

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Attn: Chris Ryan, Deputy Legislative Secretary
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Board of Directors

RE: Support for SB 511, SB 609, and SB 756 (wrongful convictions)

Lisa M. Rea
Chair and President

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Roger Trott
Secretary-Treasurer
California

On behalf of The Justice & Reconciliation Project (JRP), I am writing to express our support for SB 511, 609 and 756. These bills are needed to begin to fix a broken system that convicts innocent people for a crime they did not commit.

Dr. Theo Gavrielides
Board Member
London

JRP works to reform the criminal justice system in California and nationally to reflect victims driven restorative justice. We work with victims of violent crime who actively support restorative justice. No victim of crime would ever want to see an innocent person serve time for a crime he did not commit. Restorative justice supports offender accountability. However, clearly when an innocent is freed from prison the fact remains that the guilty offender is still at large.

Bill Pelke
Board Member
Alaska

Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins
Board Member
Illinois

For this reason, JRP supports these basic reforms that start to address the great injustice of wrongful convictions. We strongly support this bill package as proposed by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. We hope that efforts are also made in the future to acknowledge that when the innocent is freed then there is a clear and pressing need to find the actual guilty person. Victims deserve this.

Advisory Board

Cheryl Ward-Kaiser
Victim of violent crime,
California

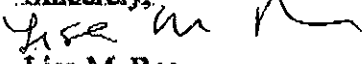
JRP would be interested in working with your office to restore integrity to the criminal justice system in California. If we can be of assistance please contact us. We urge you to sign SB 511, SB 609 and SB 756. Thank you.

Loretha Woodley
Victim of violent crime
Texas

Jo Ann Case
Victim of violent crime,
South Carolina

Russ Turner
Victim of violent crime
California

Stephen Walt
Victim of violent crime,
Wyoming

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Rea
President

James Rowland
Former Director,
California Department
of Corrections

cc: sponsor, Dan Dunmoyer, Cabinet Secretary