

# The Justice & Reconciliation Project

A California Nonprofit Corporation

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Senator Gloria Romero  
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Attn: Mary Kennedy, Committee Staff  
State Capitol, Rm. 2031  
Sacramento, California 95814

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

Dear Senator Romero:

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

JRP works to reform the criminal justice system in California and nationally to reflect restorative justice principles. We work with victims of violent crime who are increasingly in support of 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 the guilty offender is still at large.

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 of crime that work with JRP would support such efforts to work with you and others interested in restoring integrity to the criminal justice system in California. If we can be of assistance please contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Rea

cc: The Innocence Project, California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Senator Elaine Alquist, ACLU-state office