

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916-327-1009

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The California Legislature has delivered AB 316 to your desk for signature. Please sign this bill.

You have acknowledged that “despite advancements in technology and the best efforts of law enforcement, innocent people sometimes are arrested or convicted of crimes they did not commit.” When this happens, the State does a great injustice to all Californians. The liberty of an individual is wrongly taken away and the guilty are allowed to go free, perpetrating further crimes on innocent men, women, and children. AB 316 will remedy part of the problem by restoring justice to those who have spent years in prison for crimes they did not commit.

AB 316 will do the following:

- The wrongfully convicted are routinely denied employment after release because their criminal records are not properly expunged or sealed. *This bill will seal and expunge records relating to conviction for those who are found factually innocent by a Court.*
- The wrongfully convicted are barred by law from introducing a declaration of factual innocence from a judge, prosecutor, or law enforcement officer before the Victim Compensation and Government Claim Board (VCGCB). Such findings are crucial to meeting the high standard for compensation in our state. *This bill will make findings of factual innocence admissible in VCGCB hearings.*
- The legal clock starts ticking for the wrongfully convicted as soon as they emerge from prison. Most are shell-shocked from the experience. *This bill will extend the time from one year to two in which a wrongfully convicted person may bring a lawsuit against his/her defense attorney for misconduct.*

Governor, spending time in prison for a crime committed by someone else is unimaginable. Having laws that further punish the person upon release is unacceptable. By signing this bill, you will ensure that exonerees receive the justice they deserve at no additional cost to the State.

Sincerely,