



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney  
SHARON L. WOO • Chief Deputy District Attorney  
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief of Staff

DANIEL FELIZZATTO • Legislative Advocate  
TAMAR TOKAT • Legislative Advocate

June 28, 2023

The Honorable Tom Umberg  
Senate Judiciary Committee, Chair  
1021 O Street, Room 3240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 818 (PETRIE-NORRIS) SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Umberg:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 818 (Petrie-Norris).

AB 818 would expressly require a law enforcement officer to serve a domestic violence order and confiscate any firearms, upon request by a petitioner— even if that request is not made at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

Existing law requires law enforcement officers who are present at the scene of reported domestic violence incidents to serve any lawful protective orders, upon the request of the petitioner (victim), whether or not the respondent (abuser) has been taken into custody. These orders involve confiscating firearms, which is imperative to help ensure the safety of all the involved parties.

Advocates for victims of domestic violence often report that when a victim requests that law enforcement serve a lawful order outside the scene of the domestic violence incident, some agencies refer victims to another law enforcement agency. Victims are then forced to locate and drive to a subsequent local law enforcement agency and attempt to get them to serve the protective order and remove the firearms from the perpetrator. Alternatively, they must rely on non-law enforcement process servers or lay people who cannot remove those firearms from the prohibited person to serve the protective order. Without service, the order is not enforceable and the person who the court sought to prohibit is not prohibited from possessing firearms.

The referring by law enforcement agencies is concerning because it can cause more fear and anxiety for victims who are already living in fear for their lives. In addition, this referral to another agency undermines the goal of the removing firearms from individuals who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms under state law.

**June 28, 2023**  
**Page Two**

Ensuring domestic violence protection orders are served as expeditiously as possible will help protect victims of domestic violence.

AB 818 is an excellent bill that would help protect victims of domestic violence and help make our communities safer.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Petrie-Norris