



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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May 17, 2022

The Honorable Jim Cooper
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8310
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 1637 (COOPER)
SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Cooper:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1637 (Cooper).

AB 1637 specifies that fraud offenses relating to COVID-19 pandemic-related insurance programs administered by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) are criminal profiteering activities from which a prosecutor can seek asset forfeiture pursuant to the California Control Profits of Organized Crime Act (The Act).

Under the Act, the prosecuting agency can seek forfeiture of any property interest whether tangible (such as buildings, real property, and vehicles) or intangible (such as life insurance policies and shares of a company) acquired directly or indirectly through a pattern of criminal profiteering activity and all of the proceeds of a pattern of criminal profiteering activity, including all things of value that may have been received in exchange for the proceeds immediately derived from the pattern of criminal profiteering activity.

The COVID-19 EDD fraud was the biggest criminal fraud in U.S. history. EDD estimates that the fraud conservatively exceeded \$20 billion (a more realistic estimate is between \$30-\$40 billion).

Clarifying that the COVID-19 EDD fraud specifically falls within the Act will help ensure that as many fraudulently obtained assets can be returned to help offset this massive fraud to the taxpayers.

For this reason, our Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1637.

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,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney