



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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June 22, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair  
State Capitol, Room 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **ASSEMBLY BILL 1836 (MAIENSCHIN) SUPPORT Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1836 (Maienschein).

AB 1836 establishes the Officer Wellness and Mental Health Grant Program within the Board of State and Community Corrections to award funds to local law enforcement agencies and associations to develop wellness and mental health programming for peace officers.

In a recent report to Congress, the Office of Community Oriented Policing within the U.S. DOJ stated:

*The daily realities of the job can affect officers' health and wellness. They face a constant need to be vigilant, long hours and shift work, exposure to the daily tragedies of life, and regular interaction with people who are in crisis or hostile toward them. Patrol officers face a national undercurrent of heightened public scrutiny of the profession that overshadows the legitimacy of their individual efforts. Corrections officers can expect to encounter verbal abuse and physical assaults from prisoners and exposure to hazardous materials and blood-borne pathogens. All of these things added to the ordinary hassles of the workplace and their personal lives can lead to cumulative stress and burnout.*

It is estimated that twice as many peace officers die each year from suicide than are killed in either traffic accidents or assaults. The programs/services funded by the bill will

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not only improve the lives and careers of peace officers but would help reduce the levels of stress and anger in the profession.

Our Office believes it is appropriate to increase resources available to law enforcement to help prevent and treat the cumulative stress that may result from the realities of their work.

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 Maienschein