



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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The Honorable Steve Bennett
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

**ASSEMBLY BILL 2023 (BENNETT)
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bennett:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2023.

AB 2023 provides that a person incarcerated in, or recently released from, a county jail shall have access to up to three free telephone calls to plan for a safe and successful release.

Ensuring individuals have information about their release and the ability to make free telephone calls will help coordinate their transportation from jail and the opportunity to arrange for housing and medical appointments. This is especially crucial for individuals suffering from mental illness.

In 2013, a young woman was released from custody in LA County in the middle of the night. She suffered from mental health issues and her mother refused to pick her up from the county jail. Without an ability to arrange for other transportation she left the jail on foot. She disappeared and a large scale search for her was conducted. Unfortunately, after several weeks of searching her body was found a few miles from the jail. Similar instances have occurred recently in Shasta and Alameda County.

Our Office believes AB 2023 will help better protect individuals being released from custody, especially vulnerable individuals and those with mental illness.

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