



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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June 13, 2022

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 2520 (GABRIEL) SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gabriel:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2520.

AB 2520 would create an Office of Access to Justice (OAJ) in the California DOJ to increase the availability of meaningful access to justice programs for all Californians.

According to the 2019 California Justice Gap Study, 60% of low-income Californians experience at least one civil legal problem in their household each year, and 23% have six or more civil legal problems per year. The study also found that low-income individuals received inadequate or zero legal help for 85% of these problems. On average, there is only one civil legal aid attorney available per 5,500 low-income Californians, though in rural areas that disparity is much larger.

One of the main missions of our Office has always been to serve the needs of victims. While we do as much as we can to improve the lives of crime victims, our reach is limited.

The overwhelming majority of crime victims are low-income Californians who often lack the resources to recover when they are victimized by a criminal offender. It does not matter if the crime is a crime of violence or a property crime, the impact is often devastating and that impact can remain long after a criminal case is concluded. Examples of the needs of crime victims to have access to a program like the type proposed by AB 2520 include domestic violence victims who have landlord tenant issues when they escape their abuser or a victim of violent crime who loses their job, housing and savings due to an extended and expensive hospital stay. AB 2520 can help provide the needed civil legal assistance for these crime victims.

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

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