



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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June 9, 2022

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 4250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 2761 (McCARTY) SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member McCarty:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2761.

AB 2761 would require a death certificate to state whether a person died through use of force by a peace officer, while in the custody of a peace officer, or while in the custody of state or local law enforcement, including a city or county jail or state prison, if the death was precipitated by law enforcement conduct.

AB 2761 also requires a state or local correctional facility to post the following information on its website within 10 days after the death of a person who died while in custody:

- a) The full name of the agency;
- b) The county in which the death occurred;
- c) The facility in which the death occurred and the location within that facility where the death occurred;
- d) The race, gender, and age of the decedent;
- e) The date on which the death occurred;
- f) The custodial status of the decedent, including, but not limited to, whether the person was awaiting arraignment, awaiting trial, or incarcerated; and,
- g) The manner and means of death.

Research has shown that law enforcement-related deaths are undercounted in government data. Death certificates are the primary data source used by government agencies to track mortality statistics. However, coroners are not required to indicate law enforcement involvement when completing death certificate forms. According to data provided by Public Policy Institute of California, half of deaths by law enforcement officers are misclassified in the California Department of Public Health's system. The absence of accurate and complete information on the number of individuals who die by law enforcement stifles public trust and the ability to hold peace officers who violate the law accountable.

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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 black ink, appearing to read "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney