



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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May 23, 2023

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 881 (TING) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 881.

In 2021 California authorized a pilot program that authorized the San Francisco Superior Court to increase juror pay for low-income jurors to \$100 per day in criminal cases. The results from this pilot program have produced more economically and racially diverse jury panels that more accurately reflected San Francisco's demographics. Approximately 80% of the jurors who received the increased pay indicated that they couldn't have participated without this financial assistance.

AB 881 would expand this existing pilot program to include the superior courts in the counties of Alameda, Kern, Los Angeles and Monterey.

One factor contributing to systemic underrepresentation of diverse jurors is that jury service is cost-prohibitive for many low-income Californians. Under existing law trial jurors are paid \$15 per day. Jurors are not compensated for the first day of service. California law does not require employers to pay employees for time lost from work due to jury service which forces many jurors to use sick, vacation, or paid leave to perform their civic duty.

California has not increased juror pay in over 20 years. A 2004 Judicial Council report called the current \$15 rate paid to California jurors for daily service "insulting." It is time to increase juror pay in criminal cases.

Increasing juror diversity not only helps eliminate a barrier to the fair delivery of justice, but research has shown that diverse juries "deliberated longer and considered a wider range of information than did homogeneous groups."

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For these reasons, our Office is pleased to support AB 881.

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 "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney