



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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May 30, 2024
Senators Marie Alvarado-Gil & Susan Rubio
1021 O Street, Suites 7240/8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 796
SUPPORT

Dear Senators Alvarado-Gil and Rubio:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill 796 (Alvarado-Gil and Rubio).

Existing law does not adequately protect against threats to shoot up a place or event because a specific person is not named in those threats. Schools shut down and events are disrupted without anyone being held accountable as mass shootings become an all too familiar reality nationwide. These threats cause significant trauma and fear in the community even though a specific individual is not the target of the threats.

SB 796 proposes to create a new "wobbler" offense where a person "willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to any person who may be on the grounds of a school or place of worship, with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of carrying it out, if the threat on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and if the threat causes a person or persons reasonably to be in sustained fear for their own safety or the safety of another person."

SB 796 would close a loophole in existing law by allowing law enforcement to not only properly act upon terror-causing incidents but to also hold accountable those who make these threats.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tamar Tokat in our Legislative Office at 916-442-0668.

Very Truly Yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney