



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg
California State Senate, 18th District
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 262 (Hertzberg) Bail
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Hertzberg,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our respectful OPPOSITION to SB 262, your measure to waive the monetary bail for all misdemeanors and specific felonies.

Existing state law allows judges to use their discretion and consider the facts and evidence of each case in setting, reducing, or denying bail. This allows for judges to take into consideration unique factors in each case, including the protection of the public, the safety of the victim, the seriousness of the offense charged, the previous criminal record of the defendant, and the probability of the defendant appearing at the trial or hearing of the case.

SB 262 preempts discretionary authority of judges and creates a blanket policy, irrelevant of the potential severity of the case and risk of safety of the victim and public. SB 262 will not enhance the goal of ensuring that individuals appear in court and is likely to cause an unacceptable number of dangerous individuals to be released with “zero bail” without sufficient consideration of their criminal history or record of failing to appear.

Furthermore, California voters approved a voter referendum, only months ago, that repealed similar legislation that would have replaced monetary bail for a non-monetary pretrial risk assessment. Considering the recent voter referendum, SB 262 stands as a clear attempt to undermine and overturn the will of the voters.

Our City places the utmost priority on public safety and protection of our community. The elimination of cash bail for most crimes will undermine the safety of our residents.

Beverly Hills has a history of supporting legislation and ballot initiatives that increase public safety and protects our community. Furthermore, we support a wide variety of public safety policies which prevent and reduce criminal activities; therefore, we must respectfully oppose SB 262.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wunderlich".

Robert Wunderlich
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange