

June 14, 2017

Senator Steven Bradford
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4035
Fax: (916) 651-4935

Re: SB 345 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Bradford,

The National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) stands in strong support for Senate Bill 345, a law which would require state and local law enforcement to release their manuals and policies, which are not exempt from disclosure, online. This measure is critical to achieving meaningful police reform and transparency.

Our 15,000+ practitioner-members across the country seek to bring justice to a broken criminal system. We believe that when it comes to police misconduct, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Having police department rules publicly accessible allows both citizens and defense attorneys to hold officers accountable when they stray from the safeguards implemented by their own departments.

Public defenders represent the most vulnerable members of society. Many are people of color. All are low income. AB 345 would help close the gap between justice for the rich and justice for the poor by allowing public defenders to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

As defenders, who know that a criminal conviction is only as good as the integrity of the police work behind it. In order to prevent wrongful conviction, it is the duty of public defenders to scrutinize police conduct and investigation. We may use evidence of "slovenly police work" (*Kyle v. Whitley*) to impeach an officer's biases under *Alaska v. Davis*.

AB 345 would allow frequently overburdened public defenders to better defend their clients by allowing more time to focus on the case and less time tracking down and requesting police policies and procedures.

The posting of policy manuals on police websites is a common sense measure that is firmly in line with the 2015 President's Commission on 21st Century Policing, which states, "to embrace a culture of transparency, law enforcement agencies should make all department policies available for public review..."

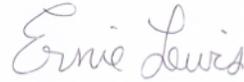
Finally, AB 345 serves a tangible public benefit, allowing citizens to stay informed and offer feedback on policies like use of force, sexual assault, domestic violence, and vehicle pursuits. These policies affect public safety and should be transparent to the public.

For these reasons, NAPD strongly supports SB 345.

Sincerely,



Mark Stephens
Chair, NAPD Steering Committee



Ernie Lewis
Executive Director, NAPD

ON BEHALF OF THE NAPD STEERING COMMITTEE

MARK STEPHENS, CHAIR

District Defender, Knox County Public Defender
Community Law Office, Knoxville, TN

PAUL DEWOLFE, VICE-CHAIR

State Public Defender, Office of the Public
Defender, Baltimore, MD

JEFF ADACHI

San Francisco City and County Public Defender,
San Francisco, CA

DAWN DEANER

Public Defender, Metropolitan Nashville and
Davidson County, Nashville, TN

JANET MOORE

Associate Professor of Law, University of Cincinnati
Law School, Cincinnati, OH

ALEX BASSOS

Director of Training and Outreach, Metropolitan
Public Defender, Portland, OR

RICK JONES

Executive Director, Neighborhood Defender
Services of Harlem, Harlem, NY

TERI MOORE

Investigator, Federal Public Defender's Office,
District of New Jersey, Trenton, NJ

NANCY BENNETT

Deputy Chief Counsel for the Private Counsel
Division of CPCS, Boston, MA

JUSTINE M. LUONGO

Attorney-in Charge of the Criminal Practice,
Legal Aid Society of New York, New York, NY

NDUME OLATUSHANI

Children's Defense Fund, death row exoneree
(wrongfully convicted, served 29 years), Nashville, TN

KEIR BRADFORD-GREY

Chief Defender, Philadelphia Defender's Association,
Philadelphia, PA

CARLOS J. MARTINEZ

Public Defender, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida,
Miami, FL

TAMARA STECKLER

Attorney-in-Charge, Juvenile Rights Division, Legal
Aid Society of New York, New York, NY

DERWYN BUNTON

District Defender, Orleans Public Defenders,
New Orleans, LA

JANENE MCCABE

Director of Technical and Strategic Litigation,
Colorado Office of the Public Defender, Denver, CO

TIM YOUNG

Director, Ohio Public Defender,
Columbus, OH

AMY P. CAMPANELLI

Chief Defender, Cook County Office of the Public
Defender, Chicago, IL

ED MONAHAN

Public Advocate, Department of Public Advocacy,
Frankfort, KY

WILLIAM WARD

State Public Defender, Minnesota Board of Public
Defense, Minneapolis, MN

STEPHEN F. HANLON, GENERAL COUNSEL, Washington, D.C.

NORMAN LEFSTEIN, SPECIAL ADVISOR, Professor of Law/Dean Emeritus, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law

