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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

May 12, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 1474 [Sentencing; Consideration of Costs]

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support AB 1474, which will have, during sentencing, the prosecuting attorney to state the estimated cost of the recommended sentence and the court to state the estimated cost of the sentence imposed.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss AB 1474 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board support this vital piece of legislation. The committee noted that, over the past decade, the state and the electorate have taken various actions to reduce the number of incarcerated people under the supervision of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Despite a resulting decline in jail and prison populations, California continues to lead the nation in spending on corrections. In the past ten years, the state's inmate population has declined by nearly one-quarter and the persons on parole population by nearly one-half. Spending on state corrections, however, remains high. CDCR spending over the past decade has increased by over \$3 billion from about \$9.7 billion in 2010-11 to an estimated \$13.3 billion in 2019-20.

AB 1474 builds on bipartisan momentum to promote fiscal accountability in criminal justice by adding a low-cost, much-needed layer of modest fiscal transparency to the state's sentencing process. Prosecutors and judges historically haven't had to consider the fiscal costs of sentencing. That's due to the fact that prosecutors usually work at the county level, but when they send individuals to prison, the county doesn't foot the bill—the state does. Modeled after successful protocols that have been adopted by prosecutors in Philadelphia and Northern Virginia, AB 1474 has prosecutors state the estimated cost of their recommended sentence and has courts state the estimated cost of the sentence imposed, allowing both to consider the broader impacts of the sentences they recommend and impose.

AB 1474 will help to ensure that taxpayer resources are spent wisely and in a manner that truly advances justice and public safety. For these reasons, we urge you to support AB 1474.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas  
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel (author), Nazarian, and Bloom  
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern and Allen

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