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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

April 17, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 1509 [The Anti-Racism Sentencing Reform Act]

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 1509 (Lee), which seeks to eliminate most gun enhancements.

We urge you to support this vital piece of legislation.

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 1509 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board support this important piece of legislation. The committee noted that this legislation will eliminate most gun enhancements and reduce all others to 1/2/3 years and provide a pathway for immediate re-sentencing for those currently incarcerated with gun enhancement convictions. We noted that sentence enhancements are costly, ineffective and outdated. According to Initiate Justice, approximately 40,000 people currently incarcerated are serving time for a gun enhancement, of which 89% are people of color. Enhancements are sentencing abuses. They add decades of time upon time. Sentencing enhancements are excessive, unreasonable and do not add to public safety.

AB 1509 will have a huge cost savings from decreased incarcerations. The savings are estimated at almost \$3 Billion per year and can/should go to gun prevention and community resources that prevent harm. For these reasons, we urge you to strongly support AB 1509.

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, Nazarian, Bloom and Lee (Author)  
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern, and Allen

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