

DPSFV.com
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Mar. 17, 2022

RE: DPSFV Opposes AB 1597: Shoplifting: increased penalties for prior crimes.

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 oppose AB 1597, which will allow prosecutors to charge individuals with three or more prior theft or receiving stolen property convictions with misdemeanors or felonies, restoring penalties for repeat offenders to pre-Prop. 47 levels.

We urge you to please oppose this unreasonable 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 Democratic Clubs located in the Assembly Districts which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss AB 1597 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board oppose this legislation. The committee noted that recent political rhetoric has been reporting that there was an increase in shoplifting, but this narrative conflates a variety of crimes into a single crime wave. There is a serious difference between retail theft used for “resale” such as luxury handbags, expensive watches, or jewelry when compared to a shopping bag full of baby formula or someone stealing food to eat.

“Smash-and-grabs” are awful; however, they're uncommon and are already considered felonies. Despite this, a slew of viral videos, alarming statistics from retailers, and political oratory have put Americans on edge. We urge you to oppose AB 1597.

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, and Bloom
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern, and Allen

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