

DPSFV.com
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Mar. 17, 2022

RE: DPSFV Opposes AB 1603: Theft – Shoplifting Amount

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 1603, which will reduce the threshold amount from 950 dollars to 400 dollars to charge individuals accused of shoplifting with felonies.

We urge you to please oppose this 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 1603 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board oppose this outrageous piece of legislation. The committee noted that shoplifting is the most common crime in the US – 1 out of 11 Americans have shoplifted. The already overburdened prison system would be even more saturated. This piece of legislation disproportionately affects minorities who shoplift out of necessity.

Dropping the dollar amount from \$950 to \$400 will not reduce shoplifting occurrences and incarcerating more people will further impact the prison system and affect minority communities. Arresting and charging people with felonies will not prevent repeated shoplifting offenses. We urge you to oppose AB 1603.

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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