



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

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Swanson's Legislation Protecting Safety Workers And Officials From Violence Gains Bipartisan Support

(Sacramento) — A bill to protect certain public servants and other professionals who have been the target of retribution advanced in the Assembly yesterday. AB 923 will add Code Enforcement Officers, members of the Board of Equalization, certain public health officers, and veterinarians to the Department of Motor Vehicles' protected list, providing them and their families an additional level of protection.

The bill passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on a bi-partisan 12-0 vote.

"We now face new dangers created by a new set of crimes, which pose additional threats of violence to certain employees. This bill will cover three particularly dangerous cases, one of which is illegal pit bull fighting rings, which in some cases are used to finance illegal gang activities. We are also experiencing violent threats on public safety officials who monitor, report, and close drug manufacturing and drug-dealing homes, which leads to arresting violators. Finally, we have to extend protections to the only elected constitutional officers who are not covered in state law," stated Assemblymember Swanson.

John Lovell, representing the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, the California Narcotic Officers' Association and the California Peace Officers Association testified on the dangers encountered and loss of lives by code enforcement officers in the line of duty. "Seven of our code enforcement officers were killed in the last three years in the line of duty. In one case, an official and his entire family were murdered. AB 923 will ensure that dangerous individuals cannot use State resources to track down and harm these officers or their families" Mr. Lovell said.

"In the past five years, our world has dramatically changed, bringing new dangers from which we can neither hide nor ignore. This legislation will meet that challenge, and will protect these workers and their families from retribution brought about by their obligation to report illegal activities and anybody engaged in them" concluded Assemblymember Swanson.

The bill now moves to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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