



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson
 California State Capitol
 Sacramento, California 95814

Re: **AB 1034 – as amended 3/2/2023**
SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

Our organizations are pleased to support your AB 1034, which would block law enforcement agencies and officers from installing, activating, or using facial recognition or other biometric surveillance in connection with officer cameras for a period of ten years. Police body cameras were intended to guard against police misconduct, not to be exploited for surveillance of Californians. The only responsible standard for facial recognition on body cameras is a prohibition.

Body cameras that automatically scan the faces of Californians will facilitate more profiling, stops, and placement of Black and Brown people into face surveillance databases, further feeding a cycle of racially biased policing and incarceration. To date, at least four Black men have been wrongly arrested and accused of crimes because of facial recognition errors and misuse. Body cameras produce low-quality footage that is blurry, skewed, and in near-constant motion. According to research by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), facial recognition was up to 100 more times likely to misidentify Asian and Black people. Facial recognition-enabled body cameras will result in more false identifications and arrests.

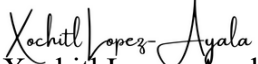

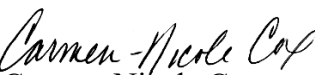



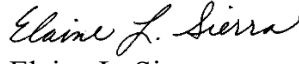


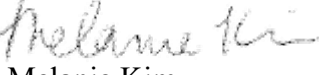


Face scanning body cameras would also suppress civic engagement and inspire fear. The widespread use of face recognition on police body cameras would be the equivalent of requiring every person to

show their photo ID to every police officer they pass. People who do not want their identities and locations recorded and potentially shared with out-of-state agencies will be discouraged from seeking reproductive healthcare, attending protests, or reporting public safety issues.

From 2020 to 2023, a California law prohibited law enforcement from using biometric surveillance systems in connection with an officer camera, thereby protecting people going about their daily lives, upholding the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and movement, and preventing misidentification. Unfortunately, these important protections expired on January 1, 2023.

AB 1034 would revive this important civil rights protection for an additional 10 years, ensuring police cameras are not exploited for dangerous surveillance of Californians. For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1034.

Sincerely,

 Xochitl Lopez-Ayala ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE	 Laura Hernandez Orange County Rapid Response Network
 Carmen-Nicole Cox ACLU California Action	 Daisy Ramirez People's Budget Orange County
 Lorena Garcia Zermeno California Latinas for Reproductive Justice	 Guadalupe Garcia PolicyLink
 Elaine L. Sierra Citizens for Choice	 Oswaldo Farias Resilience Orange County
 John Vasquez Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice	 Melanie Kim San Francisco Public Defender's Office
 Irene Kao Courage Campaign	 Tim Kingston San Francisco Public Defender Racial Justice Committee



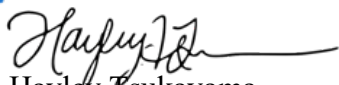
David Morgan
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights



Myra Gissel R. Durán
If/When/How



Adrianna Griffith
Initiate Justice



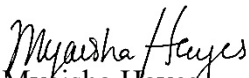
Hayley Tsukayama
Electronic Frontier Foundation



Elisa Della-Piana
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the
San Francisco Bay Area



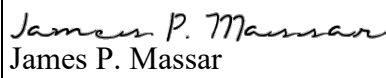
Tracy Rosenberg
Media Alliance



Myaisha Hayes
MediaJustice



Darlene Futrel
National Action Network



James P. Massar
Oakland Privacy



Brian Hofer
Secure Justice



Celestina Pearl
St. James Infirmary



Mai Tran
Stop the Musick Coalition



Michael Maharrey
Tenth Amendment Center



Alena Chavez
Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive
Healthcare



Karen G. Hernández
Transforming Justice Orange County



Alex Binsfeld
Transgender, Gender-Variant, & Intersex
Justice Project



Hope L. Jackson
Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Assembly Public Safety Committee