



September 16, 2021

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 2 (Bradford) – Peace officers: certification: civil rights – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on SB 2 (Bradford), the Kenneth Ross, Jr. Police Decertification Act of 2021, which would create a statewide process, with due process safeguards, to suspend or revoke professional certificates issued to peace officers for serious misconduct. Additionally, the bill strengthens the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act (Bane Act), California's signature civil rights law, by correcting misinterpretations and removing impediments to full civil rights enforcement under state law.

With SB 2, California will join 46 other states that have the authority to decertify law enforcement officers. SB 2 increases accountability for law enforcement officers by requiring the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) to revoke the Peace Officer's Basic Certificate for convicted felonies or other serious crimes that violate a person's civil rights. Additionally, this bill seeks to address and clarify court decisions that have made meaningful remedy for civil rights violations under the Bane Act essentially useless. The Bane Act is California's most broadly applicable and essential civil rights law. Bane Act claims are included whenever constitutional or other rights are violated by government or private actors, most commonly from law enforcement's use of excessive force or false arrest. SB 2 will help ensure that courts are affording meaningful remedies for civil rights violations under state law.

Law enforcement officers are entrusted with great powers to carry a firearm, stop and search, use force, and arrest. They must be held to a higher standard of accountability than exists now. **The League of Women Voters of California strongly supports SB 2 and respectfully requests your signature. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg
President