



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Assembly Committee on Judiciary
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 2455 (Gabriel) – Support
As Amended March 21, 2024**

Dear Assembly Member Kalra,

On behalf of Rural County Representatives of California, we support Assembly Bill 2455, authored by Assembly Member Gabriel. This measure modernizes local and state whistleblower hotline laws and adds protections to prevent the misuse of state funds. These changes improve accountability, increase public trust, and ensure government actions and transactions are transparent. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Transparency and accountability are foundational principles for democratic governments. State and local whistleblower hotlines support these ideals by providing an avenue to protect individuals who come forward to disclose government waste, fraud, abuse, and other wrongdoings. These individuals and employees strengthen our representative government.

In 2002, the California legislature passed the Whistleblower Protection Act, to protect employees that report unlawful activities. This legislation inspired local governments to adopt their own whistleblower hotlines. These hotlines provide a location to file reports that disclose fraudulent and wasteful activity, save taxpayer money, and make our government more efficient.

Recent incidents in state and local government reinforces the need to strengthen and reinvigorate California's landmark accountability laws. California must modernize the current whistleblower laws to help ensure democratic longevity.

The changes proposed in AB 2455 improve governmental transparency and accountability and protecting against unethical behavior that erodes the public's

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confidence in government. For these reasons RCRC is pleased to support AB 2455. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Member of the California State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus