



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

September 3, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 2455 (Gabriel) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of Rural County Representatives of California, we respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 2455 (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.

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AB 2455 improves governmental transparency and accountability and protecting against unethical behavior that erodes the public's confidence in government.

For these reasons RCRC respectfully requests your signature on AB 2455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Dukett", written in a cursive style.

SARAH DUKETT  
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Member of the California State Assembly  
Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor