

# SB 230:

## PROTECTING CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES



California law enforcement adamantly supports modernized policies on use of force. Since mid-2018, law enforcement has been meeting with the Attorney General, state legislators, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other stakeholder and community organizations to collaborate on changing the laws governing California law enforcement's use of force. We listened to, understand and share their concerns. **Senate Bill 230 (Caballero) will proactively and effectively minimize the use of force while ensuring that our peace officers can continue protecting California's communities.**

Under SB 230, California will raise the national standard to protect the sanctity of life by:

**Setting a clear and enforceable standard for authorizing use of force.** The bill will raise the standard for authorizing use of force to circumstances where "the suspect poses an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others or when a fleeing suspect has committed a forcible and atrocious felony"—a clear and objective standard.



**Providing law enforcement with the tools and resources needed to minimize use of force.** SB 230 will build on California's rigorous officer training requirements by establishing standardized use of force training across critical subjects, including de-escalation, rendering medical aid, interacting with vulnerable populations and the new legal standards for use of force.



**Mandating that every department adopt comprehensive policies** in all of 13 categories viewed as best practices for preventing use of force, including de-escalation, an officer's duty to intercede and reporting requirements.



SB 230 is an evidence-based approach that:

**Includes extensive input from communities across California,** including non-profits, businesses, neighborhood groups, individuals and public safety organizations, as well as the 18 democratic legislators who authored and co-authored the bill.



**Focuses on adopting and expanding upon nationally-recognized best practices** for minimizing the use of force by creating rigorous policing standards, policies, practices, training and reporting requirements – areas that have effectively and significantly reduced use of force complaints in other cities and states.



**Aligns with the Attorney General's recommendations** as outlined in the January 29, 2019 California Department of Justice (DOJ) report on use of force, including: connecting the sanctity of human life with use of force policies, requiring annual use of force training, expanding outreach and community involvement and working towards greater transparency by making all use of force policies publicly available.



# PROTECTING CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

## Setting a National Standard for Policing



## AB 392: Dangerous and Ineffective

AB 392 has been proposed as an alternative to SB 230. However, AB 392 fails to include any proactive measures to reduce the use of force. **Instead, AB 392:**



Creates a muddy and subjective standard for evaluating officers. It mandates that hindsight be used to hold officers criminally liable for using force when responding to life-or-death situations.



Maintains the status quo for use of force policies and training. AB 392 does not, in any way, change use of force policing policies, training or guidelines. The bill does not provide any additional funding for training—the foundation for minimizing the use of force—nor does it put in place even one proactive measure to reduce the use of force.



Threatens the safety of our families, communities and officers. California's police officers take an oath that they will run towards danger when everyone else is running away—and they do so willingly to protect our families and communities. This dangerous bill would have a chilling effect on the men and women in uniform by undermining their ability to respond to life-or-death situations.



Aims to criminalize police officers, creating a disastrous disincentive to joining California law enforcement. Current peace officers will retire early; future peace officers will choose a different career. Those left in the field will have no choice but to minimize their personal risk, resulting in less safety and greater threats to communities.

## SB 230: Proactive and Collaborative

The California Law Enforcement Code of Ethics begins with, “As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind.”

In support of this promise, law enforcement leaders want to work together to pass legislation establishing a national model that will improve policing and reduce the use of force in our state. **Support for SB 230 and opposition to AB 392 will ensure that all of California's 500 law enforcement agencies will be required to:**

Adhere to the use of force standard developed by the U.S. Supreme Court

Establish the most comprehensive use of force policies and guidelines in the nation

Undergo the necessary use of force training they've been asking for

Continue to uphold their commitment to protecting all Californians



Setting a National Standard for Policing.  
Support SB 230. Oppose AB 392.

