



## SONORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 South Green Street  
Sonora, California 95370

Emergency 911  
Business (209) 532-8143  
Fax (209) 532-4845  
Web-Site: [www.sonorapd.com](http://www.sonorapd.com)  
Turu VanderWiel, Chief of Police  
E-Mail: [tvanderwiel@sonorapd.com](mailto:tvanderwiel@sonorapd.com)

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*"Maintaining a Safe Community since 1851"*

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May 5, 2023

Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
4364 Town Center Blvd, Suite 313  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
**RE: Assembly Bill 742 – OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil:

It was very much a pleasure meeting with you and your staff during your visit to Sonora on April 7<sup>th</sup>. I know we discussed AB 742; however, due to the potential negative impact this bill could have on public safety, I feel compelled to formalize my strong opposition to it. AB 742 eliminates an irreplaceable policing element that has been responsible for countless saved lives and de-escalated situations.

It is the canine's innate abilities for hearing and smell that law enforcement relies upon for safety and protection. Scientific research has estimated that a canine's sense of smell is, on average, anywhere between 10,000 and 100,000 times greater than a human's. Similarly, a canine's ability to not only hear sounds humans cannot register, but their ability to alert to even the most minor sound within aggregate noise makes them even more critically perceptive. Whether searching for a violent suspect hiding inside a house, or identifying a potential threat down a dark alley, police canines play an exceptional role in protecting their partners and our communities.

Law enforcement has also recognized the power canines possess, and the need to control that force. As such, canine programs go through incredible amounts of ongoing training and review. All actions are overseen and governed by well-established department policies and held accountable by respective local governing bodies and state law. Furthermore, the use of force standards set in statute are applicable in the event of a canine deployment. Fortunately, in the overwhelming majority of situations, canines assist in de-escalating conflict and prevent force from being necessary.

As with other legislation this year, the justification for banning police canines centers on racial bias. We wholeheartedly condemn any and all racial bias, whether in policing or not. We continue to be a partner in addressing bias directly but stand against proposed laws that eliminate or ban legitimate police operations and/or powers. Working collaboratively, we can continue addressing inequity without jeopardizing public safety through these broad restrictions. For the reasons outlined above, we must strongly oppose AB 742.

Respectfully,

Turu VanderWiel  
Chief of Police



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May 5, 2023

Honorable Jim Patterson  
8<sup>TH</sup> Assembly District  
6245 N. Fresno Street  
Suite #106  
Fresno, CA 93710

**RE: Assembly Bill 742 – OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember Patterson:

On behalf of the Sonora Police Department, I want to share my strong opposition to AB 742, which would prohibit the use of police canines in the apprehension or arrest of a suspect, to bite in any situation, or in any manner of crowd control. In doing so, AB 742 eliminates an irreplaceable law enforcement team member who has been responsible for countless saved lives and de-escalated situations.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Turu VanderWiel", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Turu VanderWiel  
Chief of Police



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May 5, 2023

Honorable Corey Jackson  
California State Assembly  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### RE: Assembly Bill 742 – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Jackson:


On behalf of the Sonora Police Department, I regretfully must inform you of our strong opposition to AB 742, which would prohibit the use of police canines in the apprehension or arrest of a suspect, to bite in any situation, or in any manner of crowd control. In doing so, AB 742 eliminates an irreplaceable law enforcement team member who has been responsible for countless saved lives and de-escalated situations.

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Respectfully,



Turu VanderWiel  
Chief of Police