



September 9, 2020

To: Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu, Bakersfield Mayor Karen K. Goh, Fresno Mayor Lee Brand, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo, Santa Ana Mayor Miguel A. Pulido, and Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs

Dear Mayors,

We are a coalition of individual crime survivors and leaders of the largest victims' rights organizations in California. We are writing to invite you to stand with us in solidarity in what we know will help to achieve true shared safety in our communities: a commitment to survivor healing, restoration and trauma recovery.

As crime survivors and those who work on their behalf every day, we support policies to prevent crime, reduce recidivism and address barriers that prevent healing. More than anything, most victims want assurances that what happened to them will never happen again - to them or anyone else.

California's past as the leader in mass incarceration led to bloated prisons, ineffective crime fighting policies, and a lack of investment in what we know works.

Toward this end, we ask you to stand with us in opposition to Proposition 20, an initiative on this November's statewide ballot that seeks to roll back key aspects of successful criminal justice reforms enacted in recent years in our state.

During the past decade, millions of Californians voted for smart safety solutions that prioritized local public safety programs and services to address the needs of survivors over long prison sentences. This is the progress we need.

By reducing the number of people locked up for needlessly long periods of time, the state has realized hundreds of millions of dollars in savings that, among other things, have funded the creation of more than a dozen trauma recovery centers up and down

the state that provide victims the wrap around services needed to recover. We need to continue this progress - one-third of Californians have survived a crime in the last ten years, but just one in five received the help they needed to recover from the trauma of the crime.

Evidence has also shown us that zeroing in on community health, not incarceration, more effectively prevents crime. Thousands of Californians currently struggle with untreated mental health, substance abuse and trauma – some of the well-known drivers of crime as well as drivers of health vulnerabilities. We believe in treatment programs and addiction services to break the cycle of crime. We believe mental health issues should be handled with mental health courts and other forms of treatment – outside of traditional courts and prisons.

We cannot and must not turn back the clock. Passage of Proposition 20 would mean as many as 10,000 more people could end up in California prisons and jails, undermining the key pathway California lawmakers have used to reallocate resources from incarceration to local safety solutions. Passage of Proposition 20 would also defund Trauma Recovery Centers, which primarily serve people of color and are critical lifelines for survivors of violence.

We seek unity and a collective commitment to what we know will keep us safe. Proposition 20 is opposed by more than 100 leading labor, civil rights and business organizations such as California Teachers Association, Chicana Latina Foundation, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), California Labor Federation, United Domestic Workers of America, California Correctional Peace Officers Association, California Fire Chiefs Association, United Way of California, Sierra Club, California Black Chamber of Commerce, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (CA), and the Chief Probation Officers of California, among others. We ask you to help us to continue the progress we have made together in California. Stand with us in opposition to Proposition 20, and a return to the failed policies of the past.

In solidarity,

Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Ruby's Place