



California State Sheriffs' Association

Organization Founded by the Sheriffs in 1894

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To: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
The Honorable Bob Huff
The Honorable John A. Perez
The Honorable Connie Conway

cc: All Members of the California State Legislature

From: Sheriff Gregory J. Ahern, President

Date: December 12, 2013

Re: PPIC Report – “Public Safety Realignment and Crime Rates in California”

The release of the Public Policy Institute of California’s (PPIC) report “Public Safety Realignment and Crime Rates in California” affords us an opportunity to reaffirm the California State Sheriffs’ Association’s (CSSA) commitment to continue working to improve Realignment as it begins its third year of implementation. Local law enforcement remains uniquely positioned and qualified to generate better offender outcomes.

As crime rates rise and fall, it is natural and necessary to examine why those changes happen and consider what should be done to change course to reduce crime rates or continue successful crime-fighting policies and procedures. And while no increase in crime is desirable or acceptable, these results must be viewed in context. What CSSA takes from this report above all is that the state and local governments can and must do a better job in implementing Realignment.

We are pleased to say that we have and continue to work toward the goals of safely reducing state prison overcrowding, providing sufficient and appropriate resources to local justice partners to supervise increased caseloads, and avoiding the early release of violent offenders from state prison. That said, it is clear that more must be done to further the intent of Realignment and to avoid future criminality that would result from a prison population reduction strategy focused on inmate releases.

It is in this spirit that we look forward to continued progress relative to the methods in which the state can meet its court-ordered population cap, opportunities to improve and expand program and treatment facilities in our jails, and where we incarcerate long-term offenders. We appreciate your willingness to work with CSSA to ensure that we have the ability to do so.