



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadlecsek, Vice Chair, Sacramento; Tom Lacey, San Francisco; Debra Reiger, Sacramento; John Reiger, Chair, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; John Sweeney, Santa Clara; C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, Sacramento.

May 31, 2024

Honorable Senator **Nancy Skinner**
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Subject: SB 254 - Media access to correctional facilities - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner:

The Peace and Freedom Party supports the 24 January 2024 version of SB 254 (Skinner) on media access to correctional facilities.

People who are incarcerated do not lose their basic human rights because of their incarceration, but all too often those rights are violated. Such violations can't be addressed if they aren't known except by the prisoners and perpetrators, and access by the news media to prisoners is one of the best ways that the general public and lawmakers can become aware of problems. That is what the current version of SB 254 allows.

However, we prefer the original version of the bill, which also provided media access to prisoners in county jails. Some reasons for this are because the nature of county jails results in some issues that are not present in state prisons, that jail inmates include people who are awaiting trial and have never been convicted of anything, and county prisoners serving short sentences often lack access to rehabilitative programs present in the state correctional system. Also, with few exceptions the county systems are small enough that there is less internal oversight than in the state system with its multiple facilities, so that the check provided by the media can be even more important.

Despite removing jails having access to the media, the Peace and Freedom Party continues to support SB 254. To discuss our position on this bill please phone Dave at 408-984-1196 (mobile), email John at reigers@earthlink.net, or contact C. T. at 916-320-9186 (mobile) or CTWeberVoters@att.net.

Sincerely,

Dave Kadlecsek

John C. Reiger

C. T. Weber

Dave Kadlecsek
Legislative Committee Vice Chair
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