



June 22, 2026

The Honorable Issac Bryan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Liz Ortega
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1537 (Bryan, Carrillo, Ortega) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Members Bryan, Carrillo, and Ortega:

On behalf of Black Women Organizing for Political Action (BWOPA-CA)—California's oldest women's political organization—I write in support of AB 1537, which would prohibit a peace officer from engaging in casual, part-time, contract-based, or any other form of secondary employment for, or as an independent contractor of or volunteer for, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or its contractors, or any other entity that assists with or engages in immigration enforcement.

BWOPA-CA's mission is to activate, motivate, promote, support, and educate African American women about the political process; encourage civic engagement; and affirm our commitment to solving those problems affecting the African American community. For more than five decades,

BWOPA has advocated policies that advance equity, economic security, and dignity for Black Californians and other historically underserved communities. Trust between communities of color and law enforcement has long been central to our work, and BWOPA-CA understands firsthand how quickly that trust erodes when the line between local policing and other enforcement systems becomes blurred.

AB 1537 is needed because mixing local policing with immigration enforcement damages trust, especially in immigrant communities and mixed-status families. Almost one in three Californians

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is foreign-born, and approximately one in two children in California has at least one immigrant parent. When people fear that the officer they see in their neighborhood may also be working immigration enforcement off duty, it becomes harder for communities to report crime, seek help, or cooperate with public safety systems. That breakdown in trust does not stay contained to immigrant communities alone; it weakens public safety for everyone.

This bill reinforces commitments to transparency and accountability, and helps ensure that local and state systems are not turned into pipelines for deportation. It requires officers to report any offer of secondary employment related to immigration enforcement, and it requires law enforcement agencies to maintain public records of secondary employers and the number of officers they employ. It also makes clear that a violation is an act of dishonesty and grounds for decertification, reflecting the seriousness of the conflict of interest at stake when an officer sworn to protect and serve a community also works to arrest, detain, transport, or deport members of that same community.

For BWOPA-CA, this is about protecting the relationship between communities and the institutions meant to keep them safe. Black Californians, immigrant Californians, and mixed-status families all have a stake in law enforcement systems that are accountable, transparent, and free of conflicts that compromise public trust.

For these reasons, BWOPA-CA respectfully requests your support for AB 1537. Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "LaNiece Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "LaNiece" being more prominent than the last name "Jones".

LaNiece Jones
State President/ CEO
BWOPA ONE

cc: Chair and Members of the Senate Public Safety Committee