

May 17, 2018

The Honorable Shirley Weber
State Capitol, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 931— Police Accountability & Community Protection Act— SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

The League of Women Voters is pleased to support AB 931, a bill that will change police authorization for the use of force from *reasonable* to *necessary* to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury.

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports violence prevention programs in all communities and actions, the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior, and the allocation of public monies in government programs to prevent violence.

Police kill more people in California than in any other state. In 2017, officers shot and killed 162 people in California according to [a tally](#) by The Washington Post, which means the state has 16 percent of the nation's killings by police but only 12 percent of its population. Only half of the 162 people killed were armed with guns. Some California police departments instituted use of force policies to adopt best practices like requiring de-escalation when possible, using force that is proportional to the law enforcement objective, and grounding their policies on the importance of human life. Studies show that officers in departments that adopted such policies kill fewer people and are less likely to be killed or assaulted in the line of duty.

We believe changing the standard for the use of force from “reasonable” to “necessary” will prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury AND reduce police and community violence.

Therefore, we are support of AB 931.

Sincerely,



Helen L. Hutchison
President