



September 1, 2020

**VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author**

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 3070 (Weber) – Juries: peremptory challenges – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

**The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on AB 3070**, which would help make real the promise of a fair and equitable jury.

It has been more than 40 years since the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial bias in the use of peremptory challenges is unconstitutional. And yet, prosecutors in California continue to strike Black and Latinx jurors at disproportionate rates, and people continue to be convicted by juries that do not reflect the diversity of this state.

AB 3070 would address unlawful discrimination in the selection of juries, regardless of intentional or implicit bias, by using an objective test to determine whether discrimination has occurred. Furthermore, AB 3070 would require courts to examine the reasons actually provided and prohibit courts from speculating as to whether there are unstated reasons for the peremptory challenge.

The right to a jury of one's peers is a fundamental component of the American criminal justice system. For too long, systemic bias has been allowed to reign, Black and Latinx Californians have been excluded, and juries have been woefully unrepresentative. **Chaptering AB 3070 is essential to effectively implement our laws against racial bias in jury selection and make them meaningful.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Moon Goldberg  
President