



June 11, 2019

VIA Online Portal to Author, E-mail to Senate Committee on Public Safety

The Honorable Shirley Weber  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 392 (Weber) - Peace officers: deadly force- SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

**The League of Women Voters of California writes to support AB 392**, your bill to authorize law enforcement to use deadly force only when necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury, and to hold officers accountable for the use of deadly force when there are alternatives. The bill specifies that officers do not lose the right to self-defense when they use "objectively reasonable force" as defined by the statute.

California law enforcement departments have some of the highest rates of civilian killings in the nation. Between 2005 and 2016, only two police killings out of the nearly 1,200 reported by the Department of Justice, were deemed unjustifiable under the lens of the outdated use of force laws enacted in 1872. Unarmed people of color and people with physical and mental disabilities represent more than half of those killed by police.

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

**AB 392 will preserve human lives for both the public and officers.** Studies show that officers are less likely to be killed or assaulted in the line of duty when their department policies implement a higher standard for the use of deadly force.

**Community trust in law enforcement is undermined when force is used unnecessarily and disproportionately.** We believe changing the standard for the use of force from "reasonable" to "necessary" will reduce police and community violence, rebuild the community trust, and bring state law enforcement policies on use of force in compliance with recent court decisions and national best practices. Thank you for authoring this important legislation. **The League is in strong support of AB 392 and urges its passage.**

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