PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 931
POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT

AB 931 WILL
1. Establish that law enforcement cannot use deadly force unless there are no other reasonable alternatives.
2. Establish that use of force by law enforcement is not justified if the officer’s criminal negligence contributed to causing the imminent threat.
3. Raise the legal standard for use of force, establishing that law enforcement can only use deadly force if there is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.

If AB 931 is signed into law, it will establish a tougher and clearer standard for when law enforcement can use force. In turn, agencies can more easily discipline or fire officers who fail to meet this new standard, and communities can push their local District Attorney to file criminal charges when warranted. Because AB 931 will authorize law enforcement to use deadly force only when it is essential to “prevent imminent and serious bodily injury or death,” it will also require that other interventions be prioritized. In other words, officers can use force only when there is no reasonable alternative including warnings, verbal persuasion, or other non-lethal methods of resolution or de-escalation.

AB 931 is sponsored by: Alliance for Boys and Men of Color (PolicyLink), American Civil Liberties Association of California (ACLU - CA), Anti Police-Terror Project, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), PICO California, and the Youth Justice Coalition. AB 931 is supported by: ACCE Action; Advancement Project; Alliance San Diego; American Friends Service Committee; Amnesty International USA; Asia Law Alliance; Bend the Arc Jewish Action; Black American Political Association of California; Black Women Organized for Political Action; California Association of African-American Supervisors and Administrators; California Calls; California Cannabis Coalition; California Faculty Association; California Immigrant Policy Center; California Majority Alliance; Inland Empire Chapter; California Nurses Association; California Public Defenders Association; California State Conference of the NAACP; Californians for Justice; Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB); Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice; Center on Policy Initiatives; Chinese for Affirmative Action; City of Berkeley; Cindy and Bill Simon Technology School; Cregg and Leuty United for Economic Justice (CLUE); Climate Action Campaign; Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA); Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Police; Coalition for Justice and Accountability; Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth; Consumer Attorney of California; Council on American-Islamic Relations; California, Courage Campaign; Ella Baker Center for Human Rights; Fathers and Families of San Joaquin; Friends Committee on Legislation of California; Hispanic National Bar Association; I Am…Indivisible Alfa-Pasadena; Immigrant Legal Resource Center; Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance; League of Women Voters of California; Legal Services for Prisoners with Children; Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California; Mid-City CAN; National Action Network; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Nurses United; Oakland Privacy; Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development; Orange County Congregation Community Organization; Oscar Grant Committee; Paving Great Futures; People Acting as Community Together; PICO California; PolicyLink; Presswood Public Health Justice Collective; Riverside Temple Beth El; Root and Rebound; San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium; San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association; San Francisco District Attorney’s Office; San Francisco Public Defender’s Office; San Jose Peace and Justice Center; Santa Ana Unified; Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee; Santa Clara University; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); SF LGBT Center; Silicon Valley De-Bug; Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Bay Area; Showing Up for Racial Justice, Sacred Heart, Together We Will – San Jose; Transgender Law Center; True Hope Church; UAW 2865; UCF Student-Workers Union; United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) – Western States Council; University of San Francisco School of Law; Women’s Foundation of California; and Youth ALIVE!

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
The Coalition for AB 931 is led by families whose loved ones have been killed by law enforcement. Devastated by the lack of accountability and prosecution in use of force cases, we are demanding change — in the streets, in the courts, in the media, and now in the State Capitol.

Take action to pass AB 931. ★ Write a letter in support of the bill. ★ Set up a meeting with your State Assemblymember’s and State Senator’s district office. ★ Travel with us to the State Capitol to push legislators to pass the bill and then push Governor Brown to sign it into law. ★ Organize your union, workplace, school, faith and/or community-based organization to sign on as a supporter.

For more information or to get involved:
State Capitol — Lizbeth Buchen, ACLU, lbuchen@aclu.org
Northern California — James Burch, Anti Police -Terror Project, JamesATP@gmail.com or Mar Velez, CURYJ, mvalez@curyj.org
Southern California — Anthony Robles, Youth Justice Coalition, anthony@youth4justice.org or (626) 838-9450

AB 931 addresses many of the concerns raised by use of force incidents. By raising the standard by which use of deadly force is considered legitimate, AB 931 requires law enforcement to prioritize other interventions aimed at de-escalation — the very interventions needed to save the lives of people most often killed by use of force, including those with mental conditions, those who are suicidal, and those fleeing the police. Similar policy changes made in other jurisdictions have reduced police killing of community members without increasing injuries or deaths of law enforcement officers.

California leads the nation in use of force. Law enforcement officers kill more people in California than in any other U.S. state. ★ In 2017, law enforcement in California shot and killed 162 people. Half of the people killed were not armed with a gun. Over 20 other people were killed with another type of force, such as a taser. ★ Of the 15 law enforcement agencies with the highest per capita rates of use of force killings in the U.S., five are in California: Bakersfield, Stockton, Santa Ana, San Bernardino and Long Beach. ★ Kern County has the highest rate of law enforcement use of force killings in the nation. ★ LA County leads the nation in use of force homicides with at least 854 people killed between January 2000 and December 2017. The LAPD and LA County Sheriffs lead all other U.S. departments in the number of deaths. In 2017, the LAPD killed three times as many people as the NYPD, even though LA has only 1/4 as many police. ★ LA County is 9% Black, but 28% of the people killed are Black. ★ In the U.S., law enforcement kills young, unarmed Black men at a rate 20 times higher than they kill young, unarmed white men.

Raising standards increases safety. Current policies that prioritize use of force over de-escalation make everyone less safe — even law enforcement — because police don’t get the closer supervision and training many need.