

CLEMENCY



ADVOCACY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This guide is a resource for individuals who have applied for clemency from the Governor of California and ask the question, “What do I do now?” Here, you will find information and guidance on building an advocacy campaign in support of your clemency application. This resource will cover how to request support letters from people you know, organizations, and elected representatives; launch petitions and city/county resolutions; and engage with the media.

The material included is for informational purposes only and not to provide legal advice. We encourage attorneys to support clemency applicants *pro bono* (free of charge). This guide is intended to increase access to resources and freedom of incarcerated people.

For more information on how to apply or reapply for a commutation, the process for clemency for people “twice-convicted”, and Board of Parole Hearings interview preparation, request the California Coalition for Women Prisoners’ (CCWP) “Commutation Application Guide” by writing to California Coalition for Women Prisoners, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608. The guide is also available online here in English and Spanish:

<https://droplwop.com/commutations-application-guide/>

For information on how to apply or reapply for a pardon, request Asian Americans Advancing Justice’s “Guide to California Pardons” by writing to Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, Attn: CJR, 55 Columbus Ave, San Francisco, CA 94111. The guide is also available online here:

<https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/pardon-guide.pdf>

For more information on post-conviction relief options and immigration status, please review these resources from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center:

https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/ca_post-con-remedies-5.pdf,

<https://www.ilrc.org/fact-sheet-about-gubernatorial-pardons-california>

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Greetings Family,

My name is Steven Green. It is important you know who I am and where my life is headed, because I was once sentenced to life without possibility of parole (LWOP). After serving nearly 28 years in prison, I received a commutation from Governor Brown in 2018.

I am currently a student at CSU Fullerton earning my BA degree in Criminal Justice. I am diligently working on being admitted to a Ph.D. program. I am a statewide organizer for FUEL-Families United to End Life Without Parole. I am also a member of the National Life Without Parole Leadership Council working in collaboration with Human Rights Watch. I never imagined my life being where it is at today. I want everyone to have a chance to live up to their potential and fulfill their dreams.

If you have applied for clemency— a pardon, commutation, or reprieve— and you are wondering how you can uplift and advocate for your clemency, this guide is for you. The Clemency Advocacy Guide was made by advocates, family members, formerly incarcerated people, and people facing deportation. You'll see clemency campaigns highlighted throughout the guide — the majority of the people featured have received pardons or commutations, and one person received a medical reprieve. This guide was made with love and a desire to help people come home and stay in their communities.

In Community,

Steven Green

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. KEY PLAYERS IN CLEMENCY DECISION-MAKING (1)

II. SUPPORT LETTERS (3)

- A. Support Letters From People You Know (3)
 - Submitting Support Letters And Other Supportive Documents (3)
 - Mail (3)
 - Email (3)
 - Governor's Website (3)
- B. Support Letters From Organizations (5)
- C. Support From Elected Representatives (5)
 - Identifying Relevant Elected Representatives (5)
 - Considerations For Who To Request Support From (7)

II. BUILDING A PUBLIC CLEMENCY ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN (8)

- A. Should I Make My Clemency Campaign Public? (8)
- B. Best Practices For Engaging With Media And Press (9)
 - Deciding What Kinds of Media To Approach (9)
 - Deciding Which Journalists To Work With And Interview Tips (9)
 - Deciding Who Will Be Spokespeople for Your Clemency Media Advocacy (10)
- C. Creating Media To Amplify Your Clemency Application (10)
 - Creating and Delivering A Petition Online (11)
 - Decide if you want to post an online public petition (11)
 - Choose who will be named as the petition host (12)
 - Choose a title for your petition (12)
 - Choose the decision-maker(s) for your petition (12)
 - Draft a short pitch for your petition (12)
 - Choose a photo to use for your petition (13)
 - Choose a petition platform (13)
 - Create your petition online (13)
 - Posting petition updates (13)
 - Circulating and publicizing your petition (14)
 - Delivering Your Petition (14)
 - Creating A Short Biography (15)
 - Gather Photos and Creating Graphics (15)
 - Using Canva for graphics (17)
 - Digital Media Toolkits (17)
 - Digital Toolkit components can include:
 - More "How To" Social Media Resources (18)
 - Other Social Media Strategies (18)

Sample Digital Media Toolkit (19)

III. BUILDING A NON-PUBLIC CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN (24)

IV. APPENDIX (25)

A. Reprieves (25)

1. California Governor's Record of Granting Reprieves (25)
2. How to Apply For A Medical Reprieve (25)
3. Medical Reprieve Advocacy (26)
4. What to Expect If Granted A Medical Reprieve (27)
5. Medical release form (CDCR 7385) (28)

B. Resources (32)

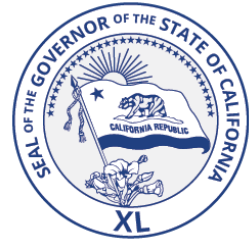
1. Template Support Letter From Someone You Know (32)
2. Sample Support Letter From Someone You Know (Pardon, Family Member) (32)
3. Sample Support Letter From Someone You Know (Commutation) (34)
4. Contact Information for Organizations (35)
5. Template Letter to Request A Support Letter From An Organization (37)
6. Template Support Letter From An Organization (37)
7. Sample Support Letter From An Organization (38)
8. List of State Senators And Assembly Members (39)
 - List of Assembly Members (40)
 - List of State Senators (48)
9. Template Letter to Request A Support Letter From An Elected Representative (54)
10. Template Support Letter From An Elected Representative (55)
11. Template Letter to Request Support For A Resolution (56)
12. Sample Resolutions in Support of Clemency Applications (57)
 - Full Resolution: Danny Thongsy (58)
13. Journalist Style Guides (63)
 - Immigrant Defense Project Community Style Guide (64)
14. Petition Tutorials And Example (77)
15. Sample Biographies (80)
16. Sample Graphics (86)
17. Sample Digital Media Toolkits (88)
 - How to Submit a Public Comment (94)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (98)

I. KEY PLAYERS IN CLEMENCY DECISION-MAKING

There are various people, organizations, and institutions who may have input on your clemency application. Below are the primary actors, their roles, and how they may help your cause.

- A. **The California Governor's Office:** The California Constitution gives the Governor the power to grant clemency. Currently, the Governor grants clemency in the form of reprieves, commutations, and pardons. While the Governor is the ultimate decision-maker, his office can be influenced by the public, including elected representatives, your friends and family, community-based organizations, and other people and entities that can attest to your personal growth and who you are today.
- B. **Elected Representatives:** The Governor may value support from elected representatives as they make decisions on clemency applications. Further, support from elected representatives is another way to show widespread support for your application and can bring positive attention to your application.
- “Elected representatives” include state senators, state assembly members, city council members, school board members, and members of U.S. Congress. Tips on what elected representatives to reach out to can be found on page 5.
 - District Attorneys are also elected representatives. The district attorney where you currently reside (for pardon applicants who are out of custody) or where you were convicted (for incarcerated commutation or reprieve applicants) may support or oppose your clemency application. After notifying the district attorney's office, as part of the application process, we recommend only engaging with a district attorney who has a strong record of supporting other clemency applicants, or who has demonstrated a commitment to progressive criminal justice reform.
- C. **People You Know:** As explained in this guide, there are many ways your network (i.e. friends, family members, current or former employers, co-workers, educators, religious leaders) can help persuade elected representatives to support and the Governor to grant your clemency application.
- D. **Organizations:** Organizations can also persuade the Governor and elected representatives to support your clemency application. Organizations can include non-profits, labor unions, educational institutions, faith congregations, or companies. The influence of these organizations can be powerful if they work on issues the politicians care about, are located in their district, or individuals within the organization have close relationships with them.
- E. **Prison or Jail:** Prison(s) or jail(s) where you did or are currently doing time can provide certificates of achievement, employment records, laudatory chronos, support letters, and



other documentation of the positive contributions you made while incarcerated. If you are applying for a commutation or medical reprieve (page 25 for more info on medical reprieves) because of a terminal illness or severe/chronic disability, you may authorize the Governor's Office to retrieve your medical records from the jail or prison.

- F. **Board of Parole Hearings (BPH):** If the Governor selects your application for further review, you may be contacted by a Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) investigator. For people who are no longer in custody, it's possible to receive a call from the BPH investigator for additional information. For commutation applicants in California prisons, you may receive a ducat for an interview with a BPH investigator. This request is an opportunity to highlight the person you are today, your personal growth (or rehabilitation), why you are requesting clemency, and why you should receive clemency. After your interview, the BPH investigator may reach out to family members to learn more about your history and/or confirm life experiences (i.e. domestic violence, homelessness, etc.). The BPH Commissioners play a role in reviewing clemency applicants who the Governor recommends for investigation but who have a prior felony, which currently requires more extensive clemency review in California. An applicant with a prior felony must receive a majority vote recommendation from BPH Commissioners at a hearing before the Governor can refer the applicant for review by the California Supreme Court.



- G. **California Supreme Court:** If you have a prior felony, the Governor cannot grant clemency until the Board of Parole Hearings *and* the California Supreme Court recommends you. If you fall into this category, and the Governor selects your application for review, you must receive a clemency recommendation from BPH Commissioners before the Governor can decide whether to send your application to the Supreme Court for review. The Chief Justice will notify the Governor of the Court's recommendation, which happens on no set timeline (it can take weeks or months, but at times a year or longer).



- H. **Registered Victims:** Victims, their family members, and witnesses (who testified in court) can register to receive updates from CDCR or a District Attorney's office. Registered victims receive notifications about parole hearings, scheduled release dates, or other changes in custody. Notification can result in registrants submitting official opposition or support in response to clemency applications.

II. SUPPORT LETTERS

Even after you've submitted a clemency application with supporting documents, you can still gather and submit additional support letters. Support letters highlight your transformation throughout your incarceration, who you are today, and the type of support writers can offer to you upon release, for those still incarcerated. We encourage your supporters to avoid discussing the unfairness of your conviction or related legal arguments, as accurate as they may be. That being said, letters that contextualize your conviction can be helpful. This context may include factors such as being criminalized as a child or youth, being a survivor of violence, or not having access to needed resources. However, if writers share context about your conviction, we recommend they do so carefully and without critiquing the system. Letters that focus on your transformation, your community service, and your support in community/reentry are most helpful.

A. Support Letters From People You Know

Friends, family members, current or former employers, co-workers, educators, religious leaders, and other community members can submit letters to support your clemency application. The support letter should include how the supporter knows you and how long they have known you. It should consist of some highlights about you, your life, accomplishments, and what you have done throughout your incarceration for your community. Encourage your supporters to state the specific ways they will support you upon release, such as through housing, financial, spiritual, and/or emotional support, and why they think you will succeed after being released or pardoned. If you are applying for a medical reprieve, your supporters should explain why it is essential you receive care in the community and not in prison. Supporters should also share any specific support they can offer to support your health, such as rides to medical appointments or picking up your medication.

On page 32 in the Appendix, please find a template support letter from someone you know and sample support letters.

1. Submitting Support Letters And Other Supportive Documents

Support letters, and any additional documentation supporting your application, can be submitted via mail, email and, in some cases, through the Governor's website. When submitting supporting documents, include your full name that matches the name on your clemency application (or explain why it differs) and your CDCR # for those in state prisons. You also have the option to include your pardon application reference number, if you have one (this is optional and not necessary).

a. Mail

Mail additional support letters to the Governor’s Office:

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency
Sacramento, CA 95814

b. Email

Support letters can be emailed to commutations@gov.ca.gov (for commutation and reprieve applications) or pardons@gov.ca.gov (for pardon applications).

c. Governor’s Website

You can direct your supporters to make public comments on the Governor’s website in support of your clemency application. Community members submitting supportive comments through the Governor’s website has proven to be an effective method of demonstrating public support for clemency applications.

Instructions for submitting public comment:

Go to: bit.ly/ContactNewsom

Select: “Have a comment”

Insert: Supporter’s first name, last name, and email address

Select subject: “Clemency — Commutation of Sentence”

Select position: “Pro”

In the text box: Supporter(s) can type their support letter for you.

Contact the Governor

Purpose of communication: Have Comment Need Help

First Name:	<input type="text" value="Supporter First Name"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text" value="Supporter Last Name"/>
E-Mail Address:	<input type="text" value="email@email.com"/>
Please choose your subject:	<input type="text" value="Clemency - Commutation of Sentence"/>

Continue

B. Support Letters From Organizations

This includes support from community organizations, labor unions, former or current employers, faith groups, etc. who may help convince elected representatives to support your application and the Governor to grant your clemency application. You, your friends, and your family members can ask for support letters from organizations with which you or they are connected.

On page 37 in the Appendix, please find (1) a template letter to request a support letter from an organization and (2) a template support letter from an organization. The letter to request a support letter from an organization can be from you or someone in your support network. You can include the “template support letter for an organization” with your request to make it easier for the organization to draft a letter of support. You can also include a short biography (see page 80 in the Appendix for samples).

Page 35 of the Appendix includes contact information for organizations that may write letters of support on your behalf.

C. Support From Elected Representatives

A clemency application with support from elected officials may help convince the Governor to grant the application.

1. Identifying Relevant Elected Representatives

You have elected representatives at the city, county, state, and federal levels. These representatives include state senators, assembly members, mayors, city council members, school board members, and members of U.S. Congress. Family, friends, and community members can urge their elected representatives to support your clemency application.

If you have internet access, you can enter your address in this tool to look up your elected representatives at all levels of government:

<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

Page 39 in the Appendix includes lists of California’s Senators and Assembly members who represent people at the state level, as of February 24, 2022. If an elected representative has a strong record of supporting individuals seeking clemency with similar convictions and/or in similar circumstances (e.g. criminalized as a youth, facing deportation, or a survivor of sexual violence), they are more likely to support your application.

2. Considerations For Who To Request Support From

Elected representatives who represent where you are from, where your family and friends reside or work, the district in which you are or were incarcerated, and where you hope to reside when released are the most relevant elected officials from whom to request support letters. Friends and family who live or work in a different city or county in California can ask their elected representatives to support your application, too.

The following are indicators that elected representatives may be willing to write a letter of support:

- They have supported criminal justice reform legislation in the past, especially if the legislation releases people from incarceration or otherwise assists people who have the same or similar convictions as you.
 - If you have internet access, you can check how California State Assembly members and Senators have voted on past legislation at [couragescore.org](https://www.couragescore.org).
 - They have a connection to your experience. For example, their district has been devastated by wildfires, and you worked as a firefighter while incarcerated. Other examples include
 - They prioritize protecting survivors of domestic violence, and you are a survivor;
 - They have a personal connection to your identity or experience (e.g. they are also an immigrant, have immigrants in their family, or have a history of supporting immigrants).

On page 54 in the Appendix, you can find a template to request a support letter from an elected representative and a template support letter from an elected representative. You can also include a short biography (see page 80 in the Appendix for samples) with your request. If a friend or a family member has a connection to the elected representative, you can ask them to request the support letter on your behalf. After reaching out to an elected representative, you or your supporter may need to follow up with them multiple times to receive a reply.

Elected representatives to avoid asking: Be cautious about discussing a clemency application with an elected representative who would likely oppose clemency because you do not want your application to receive negative public attention. Indicators of elected representatives who may oppose clemency include:

- They have used negative, derogatory language to describe incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.
- They have supported policies in the past that are damaging for incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals. This may include legislation that increases the number of people imprisoned, the length of sentences, or decreases incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals' rights and resources.

3. City And County Resolutions

A city or county resolution is another way for elected officials to demonstrate their support for your clemency application. If the majority of council members for a city or supervisors for a county have submitted support letters to the Governor for your clemency application or have expressed support for your application in other ways, you may want to ask one of the members to introduce a resolution in support of your clemency application.

To pass a resolution, a city council member or county supervisor will introduce the resolution, and all members will vote on whether to pass the resolution. This option is good only if 1) a council member/supervisor is very supportive of your clemency application and is willing to introduce the resolution to the full council for a vote, and 2) enough council members/supervisors will vote “yes” so that the resolution passes (check if the city/county requires a unanimous or majority vote to pass the resolution). On page 56 in the Appendix, you will find a template letter to request that a city council member or county supervisor support a resolution and a sample resolution.

II. BUILDING A PUBLIC CLEMENCY ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Public campaigns, which can include outreach to media outlets, sharing online petitions and digital toolkits with clemency advocacy actions, and other social media strategies, can be helpful in getting broad support from the public beyond your personal network of people and organizations.

A. Should I Make My Clemency Campaign Public?

Before reaching out to media outlets, creating media, or “going public” with your campaign through an online petition, it’s essential to consider whether media/publicity may harm your clemency application.

Essential factors to consider before seeking media coverage or doing public advocacy:

- Consider potential victim opposition:
 - Are there victims, victims’ families, or other community members who may be upset about positive media coverage of you or your loved one?
 - If yes, are they likely to create more visible opposition to your clemency application, including negative media?
 - Could you develop relevant, genuine talking points about victim impact that you or your loved one could share proactively with the media to help mitigate harmful effects on victims?
- Consider potential political opposition:
 - Are there local or statewide groups or politicians likely to be mobilized to oppose your clemency application if they see positive press about your story?
 - Could you develop talking points to counter any negative narratives about your story/your loved one’s case?
- Reflect on your conviction and how to discuss it publicly:
 - If you caused harm, be careful not to minimize the harm you caused — this could be seen as you not taking responsibility and/or cause more harm.
 - With the above in mind, consider discussing the circumstances or events leading up to your conviction (i.e., abuse or neglect, youthfulness, lack of resources, racism).
 - Consider potential victim opposition and whether publicity might decrease support for your clemency.
- If you are someone applying for a commutation or pardon with multiple felonies, consider that your clemency application, as well as other criminal legal system information, can be made public information.

After considering the potential risks of making your application for clemency more public, it's important to weigh those risks against the potential benefits of building and showing more public support for your application. If media attention may stir up vocal opposition to your release, consider whether showing strong public support might outweigh those risks (i.e., if your type of conviction is considered politically challenging, showing public support might help create more political possibility for the Governor to grant you clemency). Keep in mind that many people who did not “go public” with their campaigns have been granted clemency.

A. Best Practices For Engaging With Media And Press

1. Deciding What Kinds of Media To Approach

There are different types of media outlets. Before reaching out to reporters, research what media is best for your audience. Here are some considerations:

- The California Governor and State Legislators tend to pay attention to outlets like the Sacramento Bee, CalMatters, Los Angeles Times, and San Francisco Chronicle. National outlets like The Guardian, Washington Post, Politico, or The New York Times, can also be influential if your audience is the Governor.
- If you're hoping to build more public support for your clemency application, progressive outlets can help develop a base of supporters to take action on your behalf. For example, outlets such as The Nation, The Appeal, or Truthout, can reach a sympathetic audience of potential direct supporters.

2. Deciding Which Journalists To Work With And Interview Tips

There are a number of factors to consider when deciding which journalists to work with:

- If possible, request trusted people or organizations to vet the journalists before you work with them.
- If you are not familiar with the journalist, read some of their past articles to understand their politics, specifically how they have reported on people and communities targeted for criminalization.
- Ask them questions about how they might approach the topic.
- Ask them if they are working with any co-authors on the story and then read some of their work, especially if there are any red flags such as derogatory or unkind language when describing incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.
- If you have strong feelings about language or terms that journalists may use that would be offensive to you or your loved one, ask them in advance if they would be willing not to use those terms. Some examples include using “incarcerated individual” or “incarcerated community member” instead of “inmate.” If you are an immigrant, considering sharing this style guide for covering the stories of immigrants with convictions:

<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021.07-CommUnity-Style-Guide-R4.pdf>

Interview Tips:

Before Your Interview:

- Write out your talking points. Short sentences that focus on your main messages are often most used by journalists in their stories. The more succinct you can be, the better chance your message and framing will be included.
- Practice your talking points.

During Your Interview:

- Remember that everything you share in a media interview can be used by the reporter, so be careful to only share information that you are comfortable having publicized.
- Repeat your main message or talking points as often as you can. It is okay to repeat yourself when answering different questions.
- Let a reporter know if you don't feel comfortable answering a question. You can use transition phrases to bring the conversation back to your core message, such as "the most important thing to remember is..." or "what matters most here is..."
- Speak slowly and clearly. Regular speech speed is often too fast for reporters to take notes or for TV or radio recordings.

3. Deciding Who Will Be Spokespeople for Your Clemency Media Advocacy

To write a strong story, journalists will want to talk to you and to other people who can explain why the Governor should grant you clemency and how clemency supports safe, thriving communities. As you identify media spokespeople for your clemency push, consider:

- Family members
- Friends
- Community leaders, including faith leaders
- Community-based organizations, including groups that support clemency and prison abolition/reform, and groups organized around the identity or experience of your loved one. For example: if you are seeking clemency as someone who was criminalized and incarcerated as a child, you could reach out to organizations that support incarcerated youth or provide reentry services to individuals affected by the school-to-prison pipeline.

C. Creating Media To Amplify Your Clemency Application

Social media can be an important tool for sharing your story with an extensive web of networks and communities, including elected officials and organizations. Additionally, the Governor's Office sometimes looks at pardon applicants' social media presence on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. It can be helpful for pardon applicants to post about your job, family, community service work, and other important updates and reflections. Finally, social media can

be an important tool for coordinating efforts to mobilize your networks to encourage the Governor's Office to grant you clemency.

The primary purpose of using social media is to encourage many people to call in and email their support for your campaign into the Governor's Office. Putting coordinated public pressure on the Governor's Office can encourage the office to notice and consider your pardon or commutation application.

***NOTE: While launching a solid and widespread social media campaign can be an effective advocacy strategy for many campaigns, this strategy is not the best for everyone. In particular, we encourage you to consider how having a strong social media strategy might trigger victim opposition. Please see the section on Best Practices for Engaging with the Media and Press for more on this issue. ***

*****NOTE: We recognize that not everyone reading this guide will have internet access or a support network of individuals with internet access. Although creating graphics, starting an online petition, and other online tools discussed in this section can be helpful, they are not necessary to advocate for yourself and build a campaign. We encourage people without internet access to reach out to the organizations listed in the resource bank and/or focus on other kinds of advocacy. For more on other forms of advocacy, please see these sections of the guide: requesting support letters from elected officials, requesting support letters from friends and family.**

1. Creating and Delivering A Petition Online

a. What is an online petition?

A petition is a way to build and show public support for a person or an issue. Anyone can share a petition online, so anyone with internet access can search for and read online petitions. Online petition sites allow readers to sign petitions and to post comments about why they support petitions. Typically, petition sites only allow supporters who sign the petition to post comments, so public comments on petitions themselves tend to display positive support.

b. Decide if you want to post an online public petition

If you want to build public support for yourself or someone else, consider the risks of increased public attention. Asking for public support will raise attention so carefully consider the potential risks to yourself, your loved one, or someone with whom you work. For example, we encourage you to evaluate concerns about any victims who may be upset by public efforts to support you or your loved one.

We also encourage caution about sharing detailed information about your case, or another person's case, including if there's an active appeal or potential opportunity for parole and/or resentencing. In some cases, people choose to keep the petition focused on an applicant's personal development and community service in prison, steering clear of providing conviction information or reasons why you believe the conviction is unfair.

c. Choose who will be named as the petition host

Anyone can host an online petition – including an individual, group, or organization. The petition host will show up on the petition as the person or group asking for support. It could be the incarcerated/detained person, parent, sibling, friend, church, or community organization. Choose what makes the most sense for you while considering what might increase your chances of building public support.

d. Choose a title for your petition

Choose a short and action-oriented title. Supporters should be able to determine the subject of the petition quickly and why it's important.

Example: "Please Grant Clemency for My Mother, [Name]!"

e. Choose the decision-maker(s) for your petition

For commutations, reprieves or pardons, the California Governor is the decision-maker. While it is not necessary, you can choose additional decision-makers if you plan to advocate to others who may influence your main decision-maker.

f. Draft a short pitch for your petition

Your petition "pitch" is where you explain what you're asking for and why supporters should help. Write it from the perspective of the petition host. So, if you're a parent of an incarcerated person, write your narrative from your position as a parent. If you're incarcerated, write the narrative from your perspective – why are you asking for support, and why do you believe supporters should take action on your behalf?

Sample #1:

In 1996, my son, [name], was sentenced to Life Without Possibility of Parole for self-defense...

(Specific to petitions on change.org: Draft a direct message to your decision-maker
This direct message should explain why you want your decision-maker to take action. This message will be sent directly to your decision-maker with automated petition updates via email. It will be what your decision-makers see on the first page of your printable petition.)

Sample #2:

Dear Governor Newsom,

We urge you to commute the sentence of [Name]... because...

g. Choose a photo to use for your petition

Petitions get much more circulation when you include a photo. Select an image that the applicant wants to share publicly and scan it or take a picture so that you can upload it to the petition site. If you are incarcerated, please choose a legal image from visiting or from a photo sale, or use a picture from before incarceration. If a photo is not available, or in addition to a photo, artwork that is a portrait of you or symbolizes you can be used.

h. Choose a petition platform

Different companies have websites where the public can host online petitions, such as [Action Network](#) or [Change.org](#). These are called petition platforms, and they offer petitioners different features. There are several free petition platforms. Platforms like Action Network allow petitioners to download the contact information for supporters who sign their petition. Others allow petitioners to engage with supporters in various ways but do not allow hosts to download contact information. Petition sites like Change.org promote a selected number of petitions/issues, which can significantly increase the circulation of petitions and thus the number of potential supporters. Most petition platforms will ask you how many signatures you would like as your goal. It's a generally good strategy to choose a number you think is attainable rather than a vast number that you might never be able to make. Some petition sites set their own goals (i.e., starting at one hundred), increasing automatically as the petition gains support.

Most petition sites allow you to create an account and post petitions for free. Once you choose your petition platform, create an account and sign in.

i. Create your petition online

Log into your petition platform and choose the option to create a new petition. Each platform has a different name for this option. Follow the prompts for designing your petition. These prompts will include adding your title, petition pitch, your direct message to your decision-maker, and uploading your photo on the site. Most sites give you the option to preview your petition before you "publish" it. Once you publish your petition, you can always select the "edit" feature to make changes.

j. Posting petition updates

Most sites allow hosts to post "updates" to their petition, which adds update posts to your online petition and sends an email to all petition signers. Posting updates can increase petition circulation, which is a great way to reach more potential supporters. Updates can include thank you messages to supporters, requests that supporters continue to share the petition or take other action in support, updates from the incarcerated person you are supporting, or updates on the campaign.

k. Circulating and publicizing your petition

Once you've created and published a petition, it's time to circulate and publicize it. What social media platforms will you use? What organizations could help you promote? What individuals do you want to contact directly with a link to the petition? Consider making a list of individuals and organizations to contact with your petition.

On page 77 in the Appendix you will find petition tutorials and petition examples.

l. Delivering Your Petition

When should I deliver my petition to the Governor's Office?

You should deliver your petition to the Governor's Office once you've gathered enough signatures to show that you have strong community support for your campaign. You can also send in milestone updates on your petition as it gathers signatures. Some online petition sites send email updates automatically to the Governor's Office when you reach certain milestones if you add their email in the "decision-maker" section when setting up the petition.

How should I deliver my petition to the Governor's Office?

Your petition can be delivered electronically by email or as a hard copy by mail. If you submit your petition electronically, you can send a link to the petition or a PDF attachment of the petition by email at pardons@gov.ca.gov (for pardon campaigns) and commutations@gov.ca.gov (for commutation and reprieve campaigns).

If you submit your petition as a hard copy printout, you can ask an organization, family members, or supporters to deliver it in person at the Governor's Office. An in-person drop-off can be one way to symbolically show the Governor's Office how much support you have for your campaign, but otherwise email submission is preferred by the Governor's Office. You can combine an in-person drop-off with a press conference or rally to show strong community support for your application.

In-person and mail deliveries can be sent to the Governor's Office at:

Mailing Address:

Office of the Governor, State Capitol, Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Physical address: California Governor
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

2. Creating A Short Biography

Purpose: To have a 1-2 page summary of who you are, your story, and why you are seeking a pardon, commutation, or reprieve. This biography should be ready for lobby visits, social media outreach, and other advocacy events.

Target audience: State and local elected officials (you can use this one-pager when requesting support letters from officials) and the general public.

On page 80 in the Appendix, you will find sample biographies.

3. Gathering Photos And Creating Graphics

a. Family and Community Photos

Purpose: In addition to including photos in your clemency application, you can use photos for your online petition, to share with elected officials, or to create visual graphics for social media campaigns.

Target audience: Elected officials, community members, the general public.

Can include: Pictures of you and your loved ones (e.g., family, community members, coworkers, or faith and cultural community members).

b. Graphics

Purpose: Graphics can be used to create an easily shareable image that your supporters can post on their social media platforms. You will find samples below and in the Appendix.



Using Canva for graphics

Canva is an online platform that allows you to create free graphics. Feel free to use the following Canva-related resources to design your graphics.

- Canva Tutorials:
 - [A step-by-step guide to designing from scratch](#)
 - [Essential Canva Tools](#)
 - [How to create your first Facebook post](#)
 - [How To Use Canva For BEGINNERS! \(Canva Tutorial 2020\)](#)
- Canva templates:
 - [Canva template for Instagram post](#)
 - [Canva template for Facebook post](#)

4. Digital Media Toolkits

What is a digital media toolkit? It is an online document that compiles various ways that people can take action to support your campaign.

Purpose: To provide sample tweets, a call script, visual graphics, and other materials for supporters to be able to quickly call their representatives, message the Governor’s Office, and post about your campaign on their social media platforms.

Target audience: Supporters of your campaign that want to use their social media platforms to spread the word about your story and encourage others to support your clemency.

Digital Toolkit components can include:

- Graphics
- Sample tweets with Twitter handles of your targets
- Call script & targets’ phone number
- Support letter template & submission instructions
- Testimonials from loved ones
- Links to petitions, crowdfunds, and other resources

You can find sample digital media toolkits in the Appendix.

5. More “How To” Social Media Resources

[How to create a Facebook account](#) (needed for making Facebook events and Live Streams)

[How to create a Facebook event](#)

[How to use Facebook Live](#)

[How to create a Gmail account](#) (needed to create a Google document)

[How to create a Google document](#)

[How to create a Twitter account](#)

6. Other Social Media Strategies

Purpose: To make your social media impact on the Governor's Office even stronger.

Target audience: Community members, supporters, or the general public.

Examples:

- Coordinated social media days of action (where many individuals call, post public comment, and/or tweet at the Governor within the same time frame):
 - [#FreeLiyah - Twitter Power Hour](#)
 - [#KeepAnHome - Social Media Day of Action](#)
 - [#FreeBlueSky - Social Media Day of Action](#)
 - [#BringThemHome - Mother's Day Toolkit](#)
- Symbolic delivery of a petition to the Governor's Office and making a social media event out of this delivery by posting a video of many people delivering the petition.
- Get creative! Even though past campaigns have used these strategies, this is an opportunity for you to get creative with how you can effectively deliver your message to the Governor's Office.

See below for the [#FreeLiyah - Twitter Power Hour](#) toolkit:



#FreeLiyah Twitter Power Hour Monday, May 18 @ 10am PT/12pm CT/1pm ET

Follow @survivepunish (moderator - questions will come from this account)

Use hashtags: #FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll #ClemencyNow #FreeSurvivors
#SurvivedAndPunished

Background: Liyah Birru is an Ethiopian immigrant survivor of domestic violence, who is currently in ICE detention for defending herself from her abusive husband. Like so many Black women who dare to defend themselves, Liyah is being punished for protecting herself against the severe violence of a man who said no one would believe her if she ever dared to ask for help. We are here to say that we not only believe Liyah, but will fight for her freedom, dignity, and right to safety from domestic violence.

Liyah will have her immigration bond hearing on May 19, the first time since she has been in immigration detention for the past year and a half. As we hope that Liyah will be granted bond, the fight continues. Even if Liyah is granted bond, she will not be safe from deportation unless Governor Newsom grants a pardon to stop her deportation. Join us in taking action to #FreeLiyah!

Twitter Power Hour Questions:

@SurvivePunish (10:01) Q1: Why does the fight to #FreeLiyah matter in this moment?

#FreeThemAll #ClemencyNow #FreeSurvivors #SurvivedAndPunished #BlackLivesMatter

- This is a crucial time for immigrants, Black folks, those incarcerated, etc. Liyah represents many of these important intersections. She is not the exception - many of these communities are similarly criminalized.
- Survivors suffer from compromised immune systems which make them especially prone to COVID-19 related infections
- Liyah and all criminalized survivors deserves protection and healing not a death sentence in unsafe conditions in prison and ICE cages

@SurvivePunish (10:07) Q2: How does the criminal punishment system perpetuate violence against survivors including in Liyah's case? #FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll

#ClemencyNow #FreeSurvivors #SurvivedAndPunished #BlackLivesMatter

- S&P share examples from Liyah's story
- Survivors are expected to be "perfect victims" in order to be worthy of protection from the criminal legal system - those who defend themselves, protect their children, are Black, immigrant, trans, etc.
- Police and courts regularly inflict violence on survivors by not believing them, arresting them for defending themselves, deferring to the person doing harm, and/or harsh sentencing.
- Prisons and jails collaborate directly with ICE. Incarcerated folks are often transferred directly to ICE upon release.
- We see that the criminal legal system in fact inflicts further violence upon survivors, effectively punishing them for surviving abuse.

@SurvivePunish (10:14) Q3: How does #COVID19 impact incarcerated people and survivors? #FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll #ClemencyNow #FreeSurvivors

#SurvivedAndPunished #BlackLivesMatter

- Incarcerated people cannot social distance, and have limited protections and access to health services. For example, folks incarcerated at Yuba jail (where Liyah is) got masks only a few weeks ago.
- "If U Only Knew How They Were Really Doing Us": Inside/Outside Communication During A Pandemic is a statement and accounting of conditions inside from Alisha Walker, a former sex working person criminalized for self defense <http://titsandsass.com/if-u-only-knew-how-they-were-really-doing-us-inside-outside-communication-during-a-pandemic/>
- In April, Darlene "Lulu" Benson-Seay became the first woman incarcerated by New York State to die from Covid-19. A criminalized survivor, she was also waiting on receiving clemency from NY Gov Cuomo <https://newrepublic.com/article/157589/death-survivor>
- Carlos Escobar-Mejia, a detainee at Otay Mesa Detention Center, died after testing positive for coronavirus. It took days for him to even get any medical attention. <https://www.10news.com/news/coronavirus/community-honors-ice-detainee-who-died-after-testing-positive-for-coronavirus>

- Tiffany Mofield died of coronavirus complications on April 29 in a New Jersey prison after officials moved her from an area of the prison where she was quarantined for Covid-19 symptoms into solitary confinement even though her symptoms persisted.
<https://t.co/Zw9gp8Zygi?amp=1>

@SurvivePunish (10:21) Q4: Why should all Governors use their power and grant #ClemencyNow to commute sentences and #FreeSurvivors #FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll #FreeSurvivors #SurvivedAndPunished

- Clemency is permanent release and would ensure that people are free
- Prisons, jails, and ICE detention centers impede healing, leading to lifelong retraumatization...
- Esp important at this time of COVID-19 for survivors to be safe because cages are epicenters of the outbreak

@SurvivePunish (10:28) Q5: What actions can we take to #FreeLiyah and #FreeSurvivors? #FreeThemAll #ClemencyNow #SurvivedAndPunished

Email Gov @GavinNewsom to grant #ClemencyNow to #FreeLiyah and stop her deportation! He must take action to #FreeSurvivors and to #FreeThemAll #SurvivedAndPunished
<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/> and choose subject clemency-pardon.

Read Liyah's letter to her supporters: <https://freeliyah.org/2020/04/30/liyahs-letter-to-supporters/>
Then send a note of encouragement to Liyah: <http://bit.ly/DearLiyah>
#FreeLiyah #FreeSurvivors #FreeThemAll #SurvivedAndPunished

DONATE to #FreeLiyah! Liyah is an Ethiopian immigrant survivor who is fighting her deportation and has her bond hearing today. The minimum bond is \$1,500 but can be 4x's as much. Venmo: @survivedandpunished or @freeliyah <http://PayPal.me/ciyja>

Share her story with someone. Conversations are a powerful part of organizing! We cannot forget the importance of building with each other and welcoming people to this movement.

Take action with a selfie: I am joining the movement to call on @GavinNewsom to grant #ClemencyNow to #FreeLiyah Birru, #FreeSurvivors, and #FreeThemAll.
#SurvivedandPunished



1. Tag Gov. Newsom and use hashtags
**#FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll
 #SurvivedandPunished
 #ClemencyNow**



2. Upload pic holding sign saying some version of "Gov. Newsom: #FreeLiyah and All Criminalized Survivors #FreeThemAll"



3. Tag Governor Newsom on your selfie (@GavinNewsom)

#FreeLiyah’s story is not exceptional:

<https://carenotcages.com>

- Boost FreeThemCA: <https://survivedandpunished.org/freethemca/>
- Boost Care not cages

Outreach email - Please forward this sample outreach email to your network!

Subject: Take Action: #FreeLiyah & All Criminalized Survivors

Please join Survived and Punished (@survivepunish) to demand that Governor Newsom (@GavinNewsom) pardon Liyah Birru and release all criminalized survivors from cages.

Below are sample tweets & images directed @GavinNewsom with actions we will take. **If your schedule allows, plan to join us for our “twitter power hour” at 10 am PT/1 pm ET on Monday, May 18th. We will dedicate this time to tweet as much as we can.** If you cannot join for that time, please tweet whenever you can starting today and the rest of this week.

Here is a [link to toolkit](#) to share with your networks & here are the actions we ask you to take:

Twitter Selfie Instructions: We are calling on Governor Newsom to grant a pardon for Liyah Birru and release All Criminalized Survivors. #FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll #SurvivedandPunished #ClemencyNow. Instructions on how to participate are below:

Sample Tweet: TAKE ACTION: I am joining the movement to call on @GavinNewsom to grant a pardon for Liyah Birru & release All Criminalized Survivors. #FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll #SurvivedandPunished #ClemencyNow



**1. Tag Gov. Newsom and use hashtags
#FreeLiyah #FreeThemAll
#SurvivedandPunished
#ClemencyNow**



**2. Upload pic holding sign saying some
version of "Gov. Newsom: #FreeLiyah
and All Criminalized Survivors
#FreeThemAll**



**3. Tag Governor Newsom on your selfie
(@GavinNewsom)**

III. BUILDING A NON-PUBLIC CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN

A public clemency advocacy campaign might not be the best option for everyone. If you cannot, or do not want to use media outlets or social media platforms to amplify your application, there are many other ways to activate and organize your community to advocate on your behalf. Here are some critical steps you can take for campaigns without social media:

Focus on Building out Strong Support Materials

Specifically, focus on making your support packet as strong as possible, getting as many support letters as possible from people you know, former, present, and future employers or supervisors, legislators, organizations, and institutions. For medical reprieves, support from your physicians, public health organizations, and individuals who are committed to supporting you upon release will be highly relevant.

Focus on Urging Your Family and Community Members to Email the Governor and Call and Email their legislators.

You and your supporters can urge community members through email, flyering in your local community centers, and reaching out to local advocacy groups to call and submit letters (via email, mail, or the Governor’s website) in support of your application. Community members submitting support through the Governor’s website has proven to be a more effective method of demonstrating public support than online petitions (For instructions, See Section “Submitting Support Letters And Other Supportive Documents” page 3)

IV. APPENDIX

A. Reprieves

Under the California Constitution, Governors have the authority to grant clemency in the form of reprieves. Governor Newsom has granted reprieves in the form of a moratorium on executions. A reprieve from incarceration is a suspension of a sentence, which means that one's sentence is put on hold to allow for release. With this type of reprieve, a person can be recalled back into custody at any time at the discretion of the Governor. A medical reprieve is a type of clemency that the California Governor's Office started issuing in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. For California Governors, reprieves can be an alternative clemency pathway to release people with urgent issues, including health issues. Where compassionate release is not an option under current policy (based on eligibility restrictions and/or bureaucratic problems), medical reprieves can be an option.

The Governor's Office definition of a medical reprieve:

"A reprieve allows individuals classified by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) as high medical risk to serve their sentences in appropriate alternative placements in the community consistent with public health and public safety."

1. California Governor's Record of Granting Reprieves

As of January 2022, Governor Newsom has granted a total of 34 reprieves, 32 of which were medical reprieves. People serving parole-eligible life sentences can and have been released on medical reprieves while awaiting parole board hearings, or after receiving a parole grant but while awaiting administrative review.

While the majority of reprieves granted by Governor Newsom thus far have been medical reprieves, he has also granted a few reprieves to correct calculation errors and other sentencing inequities (i.e. a person is granted parole but then told there was a calculation error and they have more time to serve).

2. How to Apply For A Medical Reprieve

Currently, there is no specific application for a medical reprieve in California. People incarcerated in California's state prisons can apply for a medical reprieve using the general commutation application. Applicants should flag their applications as medically urgent — see the following suggestions. (For instructions on how to apply or reapply for a commutation, request California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) "Commutation Application Guide" by writing to California Coalition for Women Prisoners, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608. The guide is also available online here: <https://droplwop.com/commutations-application-guide/>)

Specific tips for applying for a medical reprieve:

- Make sure to note that you are applying for a medical reprieve on the first page of your commutation application.
- In your application, make sure to share information about your urgent medical issue/s.
- We strongly encourage applicants to include a completed medical release form (CDCR 7385: "[Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information](#)"), making sure to list the Governor's Office as the "Individual/Organization to Receive the Information" in section III.
- We strongly encourage applicants to include any potential housing and community support that will be available to you, should you be released on a medical reprieve. We recommend that you include this information in your application, and also ask supporters to include details about resources that will be available to you in their support letters (i.e. "I have a wheelchair accessible room available for X in my home in Stockton and look forward to supporting X with rides to medical appointments."). If you do not have family or community support currently available to you, please do not hesitate to apply for a medical reprieve. People have received medical reprieves without family to support them with housing, etc.
- We suggest that applicants describe the level of care needed. For example, if you can take care of your basic needs but have mobility restrictions, please describe this. If you can take care of your basic needs with in-home family support, we recommend you share this. If you need support in a skilled nursing facility, or in hospice, it will be important to include this information in your application.

3. Medical Reprieve Advocacy

If you are looking for ways to highlight your medical reprieve application after applying, we recommend gathering and sending support letters to supplement your application, including from healthcare providers (including prison doctors, nurses, etc.), legislators, community-based organizations, as well as family and friends.

It appears that public advocacy for pardons and commutations may be more impactful than for medical reprieves. Before engaging in public advocacy, we recommend you read Section 2(A) of this guide on page 3. If you still choose to pursue public advocacy for your reprieve application, we recommend focusing on your need for a medical reprieve based on your age and/or urgent health concerns. It may be helpful to mobilize specific support from public health agencies, as well as healthcare providers. Please see sections in this guide on traditional and social media organizing, as well as gathering support letters from legislators, community-based organizations, etc.

4. What to Expect If Granted A Medical Reprieve

If granted a medical reprieve, you should expect that there will be regulations attached to the reprieve, such as a curfew and electronic monitoring in the form of an ankle monitor. The parole officer assigned to you upon release will likely attach the ankle monitor on the day of your release, or soon after.

While people granted medical reprieves are considered “out of custody” and under parole supervision, they are not on probation or lifer parole. People serving life sentences who are granted medical reprieves only shift to lifer parole supervision after they receive a parole grant at a parole hearing in the community and have completed the parole review process by the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) and the Governor. Parole hearings for people released through medical reprieves are currently being conducted on zoom. Thus far, people who have been reprieved have not received new psychological evaluations (Comprehensive Risk Assessments) before their parole hearings.

Please find the medical release form (CDCR 7385, [“Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information”](#)) below:

All sections must be completed for the authorization to be honored. Use "N/A" if not applicable.

I. Patient Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____
CDCR# _____ Date of Birth: _____
Street Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

II. Individual/Organization Authorized to Release Personal Health Records if Other Than CDCR

Name: _____
Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

III. Individual/Organization to Receive the Information

[45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(1)(ii), (iii) & Civ. Code § 56.11(e), (f)]

The undersigned hereby authorizes CDCR's Health Information Management to release the health information pursuant to this authorization.

Name: _____
Relationship to Patient: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

IV. Authorization Expiration Event or Expiration Date for Release of Verbal Information/ Written Correspondence

[45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(1)(v) & Civ. Code § 56.11(h)]

Unless otherwise revoked by the patient, this authorization for the release of health care information to the above-named individual/organization will expire on the date specified below, event identified, or 12 months from the date signed in Section IX, whichever occurs first:

Date of Expiration: _____ Event: _____
From (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ To (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

V. Health Care Records to be Released - General

[45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(1)(i) & Civ. Code § 56.11(d), (g)]

I authorize records for the following period of time to be released (must be completed to receive records):

From (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ To (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Medical Services Dental Services Other: _____

NOTE: Health records released as part of this authorization may contain references related to mental health, substance use disorder, medication assisted treatment, genetic testing, communicable disease, and HIV medical conditions.

VI. Health Records to be Released - Specify

[45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(1)(i) & Civ. Code § 56.11(d), (g)]

Communicable Disease Records from _____ to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Genetic Testing Records from _____ to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 HIV Test Results from _____ to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Medication Assisted Treatment Records from _____ to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Mental Health Treatment Records from _____ to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Substance Use Disorder Records from _____ to _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Health records released as part of this authorization may contain references related to dental, medical, mental health, substance use disorder, medication assisted treatment, genetic testing, communicable disease, and HIV conditions.

Requests for psychotherapy notes require a separate CDCR 7385 and may not be combined with any other request for health records.

Psychotherapy Notes

All sections must be completed for the authorization to be honored. Use "N/A" if not applicable.

VII. Purpose for the Release or Use of the Information

[45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(1)(iv)]

Health Care Personal Use Legal Other (please specify): _____

VIII. Authorization Information

I understand the following:

1. I authorize the use or disclosure of my individually identifiable protected health information as described above for the purpose listed. I understand this authorization is voluntary.
2. I have the right to revoke this authorization. To do so I understand I can submit my request in writing to my current institution's Health Information Management (health records). The authorization will stop after release of my protected health information on the date my valid revocation request is received by Health Information Management. [45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(2)(i)]
3. I am signing this authorization voluntarily and understand that my health care treatment will not be affected if I do not sign this authorization. [45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(2)(ii)]
4. Under California law, the recipient of the protected health information under the authorization is prohibited from re-disclosing the protected health information, except with a written authorization or as specifically required or permitted by law. [Civ. Code § 56.13]
5. If the organization or person I have authorized to receive the protected health information is not a health plan or health care provider, the released information may no longer be protected by federal and state privacy regulations. [45 C.F.R. § 164.524(a)(2)(v)]
6. I have the right to receive a copy of this authorization. [45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(4) & Civ. Code § 56.11(i)]
7. Reasonable fees may be charged to cover the cost of copying and postage related to releasing this protected health information. [45 C.F.R. § 164.524(c)(4) et seq. & California Health and Safety Code § 123110, et seq.]

8. I understand that my substance use disorder records are protected under the federal regulations governing Confidentiality and Substance Use Disorder Patient Records, 42 C.F.R., Part 2, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), 45 C.F.R. pts 160 & 164, and cannot be redisclosed without my written consent unless otherwise provided for by the regulations.

IX. Patient Signature

[45 C.F.R. § 164.508(c)(1)(vi) & Civ. Code § 56.11(c)(1)]

Name: (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If no expiration date is specified in section IV, this authorization will expire 12 months from this date.

Name of person signing form, if not patient (Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Describe authority to sign form on behalf of patient: _____

Name of translator/interpreter assisting patient, if applicable (Print): _____

Signature of translator/interpreter: _____ Date: _____

Instructions

Note: Part IV is the request for release of verbal health care information or health care information as part of written correspondence, and Part V is the request for release of health care records.

Part I - "Patient Information": Records the patient's full name (last, first, and middle), CDCR number, date of birth, and address if he/she is paroled or released (incarcerated patients do not need to provide an address).

Part II - "Individual/Organization Authorized to Release Personal Health Records if Other Than CDCR":
Records the name and address of the individual or organization authorized to release personal health records if other than CDCR.

Part III - "Individual/Organization to Receive the Information": Records who is to receive the information.

Part IV - "Authorization Expiration Event or Expiration Date for Release of Verbal Information/Written Correspondence": Used by the patient to limit the time period during which information may be shared.

- The patient may enter the date he/she wants the authorization to expire.
- The patient may enter an expiration event.
- The patient may enter a date range of information to be shared.
- If no expiration date is specified, this authorization is good for 12 months from the date signed in Section IX.

Part V - "Health Care Records to be Released - General": Contains a designated line for the date range of health care records to be released.

- "Medical Services" is checked when the patient wishes to have information released related to medical care.
- "Dental Services" is checked when the patient wishes to have information released related to dental treatment.
- "Other" is checked when the patient wishes to further restrict or further authorize the release of his/her medical information, and he/she is to write those wishes on the line provided.

Part VI - "Health Records to be Released - Specify": Health care information in this section requires a date range, additional signature, and signature date.

- "Communicable Disease" is checked when the patient wishes to have information released related to communicable disease testing and treatment. Communicable disease includes sexually transmitted infections.
- "Genetic Testing" is checked when the patient wishes to have information released related to genetic testing.
- "HIV Test Results" is checked when the patient wishes to have HIV test results released.
- "Medication Assisted Treatment Records" is checked when the patient wishes to have information related to medication assisted treatment released.
- "Mental Health Treatment Records" is checked when the patient wishes to have information released related to mental health treatment.
- "Substance Use Disorder Records" is checked when the patient wishes to have information related to substance use disorder treatment released.
- "Psychotherapy Notes" is checked when the patient wishes to have psychotherapy notes released.
Requests for psychotherapy notes require a separate CDCR 7385 and may not be combined with any other request for health care records.

Under HIPAA, there is a difference between regular personal health information and psychotherapy notes. The following is HIPAA's definition of psychotherapy notes (§164.501):

Psychotherapy notes means notes recorded (in any medium) by a health care provider who is a mental health professional documenting or analyzing the contents of conversation during a private counseling session or a group, joint, or family counseling session and that are separated from the rest of the individual's medical record. Psychotherapy notes excludes medication prescription and monitoring, counseling session start and stop times, the modalities and frequencies of treatment furnished, results of clinical tests, and any summary of the following items: diagnosis, functional status, the treatment plan, symptoms, prognosis, and progress to date.

Instructions (continued)

Part VII - "Purpose for the Release or Use of the Information": Should have at least one box checked. The patient may utilize this section to check the provided boxes or select "Other" and describe the reason(s) he/she wants to have the information released. If the patient does not want to designate a purpose, he/she may check the "Other" and state "At the request of the individual authorizing the release."

Part VIII - "Authorization Information": Below this section are eight points which detail patient rights in regards to authorizing release of information.

1. Tells the patient that he/she is giving authorization voluntarily.
2. Explains how to stop this authorization. The patient may revoke the authorization by submitting his/her request in writing to his/her institution's Health Information Management. The authorization will be removed from the patient's medical record when the revocation is received by Health Information Management.
3. Explains that signing this authorization is voluntary and will not affect treatment.
4. Explains that the recipient of the protected health care information under the authorization is prohibited from re-disclosing the information, except with a written authorization from the patient or as specifically required under law.
5. Explains that the released information may no longer be protected by federal privacy regulations depending on the intended recipient of the released information.
6. Explains that the patient has the right to receive a copy of this authorization. This will be sent to the patient by Health Information Management.
7. Explains that reasonable fees may be charged to cover copying and postage costs related to releasing the patient's health information.
8. Explains that substance use disorder records are protected and cannot be disclosed without the patient's written consent unless otherwise provided for by the regulations.

Part IX - "Patient Signature": The bottom of page two is for the patient's, his/her representative's, or the translator/interpreter's signature. The patient's printed name, signature, and date are to be entered in the boxes provided. If this authorization is completed by a patient representative (e.g., power of attorney, estate representative, next of kin), his/her printed name, relationship to patient, signature, and date are to be entered in the boxes provided. Also attached must be a copy of either the Power of Attorney, letters issued in estate proceeding, or declaration of next of kin. If an interpreter/translator assisted the patient in filling out this form, his/her printed name, signature, and date are to be entered in the boxes provided.

B. Resources

1. Template Support Letter From Someone You Know

Instruct your supporter(s) to replace the text in brackets with their own, relevant information and knowledge about you.

[Date]

Office of the Governor, State Capitol, Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Re: [Person first and last name], [CDCR#]

Dear Governor [Insert Governor's last name here]:

[Introduce yourself: What is your full legal name? Where do you live? Who are you writing this support letter for? How do you know the person? How long have you known them?]

[Describe the positive contributions they have made in your life and in their family and community. If possible, include stories and specific details to illustrate what you are saying about this person.]

[Explain why it is important to you that this person is granted clemency. If you, or someone you know, can support the person financially, emotionally, etc. please describe and add specific examples.]

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Supporter's phone number] or [Supporter's email].
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

[Supporter's signature]

[Supporter's full legal name]

[Supporter's address]

2. Sample Support Letter From Someone You Know (Pardon, Family Member)

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency
Sacramento, CA 95814

[Date]

Dear Governor Newsom,

My name is XXXXXX. I am XX years old and work as a Public Health Nurse in the Disease Control Unit of the XXXXX Department of Public Health. I am a U.S. citizen and older sister of XXXXX. I am writing to ask you to consider allowing XXXXX to stay in the United States.

My brother XXXXX was born in the small village of Ben Tre, Vietnam in 1973. My family's life in Vietnam was very difficult. Our father worked for the United States during the Vietnam War, so when the War ended in 1975, the Viet Cong put our father in jail for four years. We weren't allowed to visit him, and our father was beaten regularly by the jail guards. In 1979, when our father was released from jail, our family paid money to enroll in a program to immigrate to the United States legally, but the Vietnam government refused to process our paperwork. After we lost the money for our immigration application, we were very poor and lost our house. My family, which includes my two parents and their seven children, all lived in one room. Our family used to sell mung bean desserts in night markets every night to survive.

When we arrived in the United States, we struggled in poverty and XXXXX associated himself with the wrong crowd. Our family lived in XXXXX from June 1990 until September 1990, when we moved to XXXXX, California, we did not know that the neighborhood was unsafe because we did not know a lot about the United States at the time. XXXXX and our youngest brother attended high school during this time. Because there wasn't much room for him, XXXXX would go out a lot. Soon after XXXXX stopped attending school, he got into an argument with our father and left the house for good. Because we did not have any older brothers, we did not have a way to find XXXXX. It was a very difficult time for our family. We did not hear from XXXXX again until we received a call that he had been arrested. At that time, no one in our family understood the English language or American culture, as we were all new to the United States as well. We regretfully stood back and watched An be taken away from us and suffered 26 years in prison. XXXXX was finally released in November 2019. The day he was released was a miracle we had all been waiting for.

Although XXXXX has spent most of his life in prison, he has learned quite a bit from hearing his family's success stories and seeing them for himself when he was released. He has promised himself and us that he will work and start as fresh as possible if he has the privilege of staying in this country. We all know that he is committed to remaining the good man he is today. XXXXX is excited to give back to the community as much as possible. XXXXX has such a kind soul, and I am not just saying that because I am his sister.

I urge you to please pardon XXXXX and allow him to remain in the United States with his family. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [add phone number and email address].

Best,

XXXXX

Public Health Nurse, Disease Control Unit X of Public Health

3. Sample Support Letter From Someone You Know (Commutation)

Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency
Sacramento, CA 95814

[Date]

Dear Governor Newsom,

Hello, my name is XXXXX, a retired elementary school teacher with 30+ years of service. I am writing this letter in regards to XXXXX's application for commutation. I knew XXXXX when he was a student of mine in the fifth grade at a small country school just outside of Placerville, California. I also knew his siblings, who were also former pupils of mine. I have corresponded with XXXXX since his incarceration at a young age and have tried my best to provide friendship and mentorship throughout. He has kept me informed of all of his efforts in prison to improve himself, including taking advantage of every educational, vocational and self-help program offered to him. I have witnessed XXXXX's deep introspection, remorse and profound transformation. Although he struggled at the beginning, XXXXX has become a positive leader in prison and I have learned so much from him. I am so proud to write today to support his commutation.

Although I met XXXXX when he was a child and I was his teacher, we have developed a mutual friendship over the years since he has been in prison. He became a close friend of mine, and I am now sure that I have learned more from him than he has from me. XXXXX has been so brave to share his process of rehabilitation with me, and I've learned so much from everything he's learned in his classes. I've been impressed by how XXXXX further applied this knowledge by becoming a facilitator of self-help groups and teaching his peers. Some of his students have shared their stories with me about how much he's impacted them and inspired them to make changes in their lives and communities. I am so proud of the man XXXXX has become.

Based on my understanding of XXXXX's incredibly hard work in prison, I have invited him to work for me when he is released. I run a small education consulting business and have plenty of work for him to do. As a plus, I would greatly look forward to visiting with him again in person.

In closing, I strongly support XXXXX's commutation and I look forward to supporting him in whatever ways he needs upon release.

Best,
XXXXX
[Contact info]

4. Contact Information for Organizations

Organization	Mailing Address	Phone Number/Email	Website
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus	Attn: CJR 55 Columbus Ave. San Francisco, CA 94111	(415) 896-1701	www.advancingjustice-alc.org
Asian Prisoner Support Committee	P.O. Box 1031 Oakland, CA 94604	info@asianprisonersupport.org	www.asianprisonersupport.com
California Coalition for Women Prisoners	Bay Area Chapter 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 Los Angeles Chapter P.O. Box 291585 Los Angeles, CA 90029	info@womenprisoners.org 415-255-7036 ext. 4	womenprisoners.org
Immigrant Legal Resource Center	1458 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103	415-255-9499	www.ilrc.org
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	4400 Market Street Oakland, CA 94608	(415) 255-7036 info@prisonerswithchildren.org	prisonerswithchildren.org
Southeast Asian Resource Action Center	1225 8th Street, Suite 430 Sacramento, CA 95814	(202) 601-2969 searac@searac.org	www.searac.org
Root and Rebound*	1610 Harrison st Suite E-East Oakland, CA 94612	510-279-4662 Roadmap@rootandrebound.org	www.rootandrebound.org
Youth Justice Coalition	7625 S. Central Ave. Los Angeles, CA 9001 P.O. Box 73688 Los Angeles, CA 90003	phal.sok@youth4justice.org 213-761-4226	youthjusticela.org

Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County	2323 Broadway Suite 103 Oakland, CA 94612	dannyt@urbanstrategies.org	https://www.jrcofac.org/members
Silicon Valley De-Bug	701 Lenzen Ave San Jose, CA 95126	408-971-4965 info@siliconvalleydebug.org	www.participatorydefense.org
Creating Restorative Opportunities and Programs (CROP)	CROP ORGANIZATION 1300 Clay Street, Ste 600 Oakland, CA 94612	209-354-6065 info@croporg.org Or richard.mireles@croporg.org	https://www.croporganization.org/
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights	1419 34th Ave, Suite 202, Oakland, CA 94601	510-428-3939 policy@ellabakercenter.org ,	www.ellabakercenter.org
Families United to End LWOP (FUEL)	6109 S. Western Ave #206 L.A., CA 90047	424-744-1156 fuelwop@gmail.com gerifcp@gmail.com	
Fair Chance Project	6109 S. Western Ave #206 L.A., CA 90047	424-744-1156 gerifcp@gmail.com	
Support Don't Deport Collective	Members in Long Beach and Inland Empire	520-990-6003 sddcollective.21@gmail.com	

*Root & Rebound and ILRC can provide resources but do not represent people in individual clemency petitions.

5. Template Letter to Request A Support Letter From An Organization

Dear [Name of Organizational Contact],

My name is [name and relationship to the clemency applicant].

I am writing to ask [Name of organization] to write a letter in support of [Applicant/Your Name]'s clemency application. [Describe any connection you have to the organization].

[Your Name] has served [Number of years] in prison. A [pardon/commutation] does not erase the harm caused by [Applicant], nor does it erase [Applicant's] commitment to making amends. Rather, clemency recognizes [Applicant's] personal transformation and allows them to continue serving and contributing to their family and community. [Alternate language: If you maintain your innocence, or you were convicted for someone else's actions, you can phrase it as "I was convicted of...."]

[Describe the programs and types of work you have participated in, your plans for the future, familial and community connections, job opportunities, stable reentry plans, housing arrangements upon release, and other reasons the applicant is deserving of a grant of clemency. If you have already been released from prison, describe what you have been doing since your release (e.g., your employment, community service, or reconnecting with family and community)].

[Your Name]'s request for clemency is urgent for the following reasons. [Describe any circumstances that make the applicant's clemency urgent (for example, they are medically vulnerable or are facing deportation)].

Attached is a sample support letter that [Name of organization] can personalize, and more background on [Applicant's] story. Please send the letter to [email address or mailing address]. I look forward to your response. Thank you for your time and consideration, and let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

[Name and contact information]

6. Template Support Letter From An Organization

Attach this sample/template letter to your requests to organizations, or include it in a physical letter.

[yellow highlight] = fill in before sending to the organization **[blue highlight]** = leave blank for the organization to fill in

[Letterhead] **[Date]**

California Governor

State Capitol

Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for [Applicant's Name]

Dear Governor [Name of Current Governor],

[Add description of your organization and its connection to the clemency Applicant and their experience.]

[Name of organization] is in strong support of [Applicant's] clemency application. [If applicant's clemency is urgent, add text describing the urgency here].

[Provide context for applicant's conviction(s) here. Examples: childhood trauma, refugee background, surviving intimate partner violence, criminalized and sentenced while still a child, etc.]

[If applicant maintains innocence, this paragraph can be taken out] Today, [Applicant] is committed to leading a productive life and making amends for harm [he/she/they] caused. [Applicant] carries deep remorse for decisions [he/she/they] made and for the damage those decisions caused. [Describe in detail the self-help programs, self-reflection work, job experience, leadership roles, etc. the applicant has participated in or taken on that have contributed to the applicant's personal growth].

[Explain why it is important the applicant receives a pardon or clemency].

I strongly support [Applicant's] application for a [pardon/commutation]. A [pardon/commutation] does not erase the harm caused by [Applicant] nor does it erase [Applicant's] lifelong commitment to making amends. Rather, clemency recognizes that [Applicant's] personal transformation allows [Applicant's pronoun] to continue serving and contributing to their family and community. [Describe reentry plans (if applicable), including housing, job opportunities, familial/community ties, and other plans if the applicant receives clemency]. I strongly encourage you to grant [Applicant's] clemency application.

Sincerely,

[Signature & Title, Name of Organization, Contact Information]

7. Sample Support Letter From An Organization

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

March XX, 2020

Re: Commutation Support for XXXXX (CDCR#)

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to express our complete support for commutation for XXXXX, who is now XX years old. We at the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) have been working with

XXXXX for nearly a decade. I personally met XXXXX about five years ago. I have been impressed with XXXXX's positive approach to her incarceration. She has maintained her loving family ties, continued to parent her children as much as possible, and given back to her community. I have experienced XXXXX as consistently demonstrating care and kindness to others. I am honored to support XXXXX's application for clemency and urge you to expedite her release given her severe health issues, her remarkable self-development, her positive prison record, and her community service, even while physically disabled and chronically ill.

CCWP staff and volunteers are committed to supporting XXXXX throughout her transition home. We are working closely with her family and know that she has several housing offers with family members, including with her sister XXXXX in Los Angeles, and her daughter XXXXX in San Bernardino. She also has a transitional housing acceptance letter to XXXXX.

CCWP has strong communities of support for women reentering across California and we are eager to support XXXXX to access the resources she needs to ensure her safe and productive transition home. I will make myself personally available to XXXXX throughout her reentry, supporting her as needed. We have provided direct support to hundreds of people released from California's women's prisons who are leading productive lives and contributing tremendously to their families and communities. I have no doubt that XXXXX will thrive upon release.

I respectfully urge you to commute XXXXX's sentence. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
[Name, title and contact information]

8. List of State Senators And Assembly Members

CA Assembly Members: <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers>

CA Senators: <https://www.senate.ca.gov/senators>





See full roster of the CA Assembly Members and Senators and their contact information below:











Members









On each Assemblymember's Home Page you will find his/her email address, Capitol and District addresses and phone numbers, the Member's biography, a list of all the legislation authored by that Assemblymember, his/her committee memberships, press releases and other publications, district links, and more.











[Find your Legislator by your address](#)











[Assemblymember 10th and O Street Offices Directory, revised 2/22/22, \[pdf\]](#)











▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
 <p>Aguiar-Curry, Cecilia M.</p>	04	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6350 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0004; (916) 319-2004</p> <p>District Office 600 A Street, Suite D, Davis, CA 95616; (530) 757-1034 2721 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, Napa, CA 94558; (707) 224-0440 50 D Street, Suite 305, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; (707) 576-0400 885 Lakeport Boulevard, Lakeport, CA 95453;</p>
 <p>Arambula, Dr. Joaquin</p>	31	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Dr. Joaquin Arambula</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6240 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0031; (916) 319-2031</p> <p>District Office 2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 5031, Fresno, CA 93721; (559) 445-5532</p>
 <p>Bauer-Kahan, Rebecca</p>	16	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6320 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0016; (916) 319-2016</p> <p>District Office 12677 Alcosta Boulevard, Suite 395, San Ramon, CA 94583; (925) 244-1600</p>
 <p>Bennett, Steve</p>	37	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Steve Bennett</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4140 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0037; (916) 319-2037</p> <p>District Office 101 West Anapamu Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101; (805) 564-1649 89 South California Street, Suite F, Ventura, CA 93001; (805) 641-3700</p>
 <p>Berman, Marc</p>	24	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Marc Berman</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6130 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0024; (916) 319-2024</p> <p>District Office 721 Colorado Ave, Suite 101, Palo Alto, CA 94303; (650) 324-0224</p>
 <p>Bigelow, Frank</p>	05	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Frank Bigelow</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4640 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0005; (916) 319-2005</p> <p>District Office 730 North I Street, Suite 102, Madera, CA 93637; (559) 673-0501 2441 Headington Road, Placerville, CA 95667; (530) 295-5505 460 Sutter Hill Road, Suite C, Sutter Creek, CA 95685; (209) 267-0500</p>
 <p>Bloom, Richard</p>	50	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Richard Bloom</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8130 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0050; (916) 319-2050</p> <p>District Office 2800 28th Street, Suite 105, Santa Monica, CA 90405; (310) 450-0041</p>
 <p>Boerner Horvath, Tasha</p>	76	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4150 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0076; (916) 319-2076</p> <p>District Office 325 Carlsbad Village Drive, Suite A-2, Carlsbad, CA 92008; (760) 434-7605</p>
 <p>Bonta, Mia</p>	18	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Mia Bonta</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5620 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0018; (916) 319-2018</p> <p>District Office 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2204, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 286-1670</p>











▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
<p>Bryan, Isaac G.</p> 	54	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Isaac G. Bryan</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5630 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0054; (916) 319-2054</p> <p>District Office 5601 West Slauson Avenue, Suite 200, Culver City, CA 90230; (310) 641-5410</p>
<p>Calderon, Lisa</p> 	57	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Lisa Calderon</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4120 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0057; (916) 319-2057</p> <p>District Office 13181 Crossroads Parkway North, Suite 160, City of Industry, CA 91746-3497; (562) 692-5858</p>
<p>Carrillo, Wendy</p> 	51	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5730 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0051; (916) 319-2051</p> <p>District Office 1910 West Sunset Boulevard, Suite 810, Los Angeles, CA 90026; (213) 483-5151</p>
<p>Cervantes, Sabrina</p> 	60	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6120 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0060; (916) 319-2060</p> <p>District Office 391 North Main Street, Suite 210, Corona, CA 92878; (951) 371-6860</p>
<p>Chen, Phillip</p> 	55	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Phillip Chen</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4620 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0055; (916) 319-2055</p> <p>District Office 3 Pointe Drive, Suite 313, Brea, CA 92821; (714) 529-5502</p>
<p>Choi, Ph.D., Steven S.</p> 	68	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Steven S. Choi, Ph.D.</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4520 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0068; (916) 319-2068</p> <p>District Office 3240 El Camino Real, Suite 110, Irvine, CA 92602; (714) 665-6868</p>
<p>Cooley, Ken</p> 	08	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Ken Cooley</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8310 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0008; (916) 319-2008</p> <p>District Office 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Suite 130, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670; (916) 464-1910</p>
<p>Cooper, Jim</p> 	09	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Jim Cooper</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5720 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0009; (916) 319-2009</p> <p>District Office 9250 Laguna Springs Drive, Suite 220, Elk Grove, CA 95758; (916) 670-7888</p>
<p>Cunningham, Jordan</p> 	35	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Jordan Cunningham</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5350 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0035; (916) 319-2035</p> <p>District Office 1304 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; (805) 549-3381</p>
<p>Dahle, Megan</p> 	01	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Megan Dahle</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5710 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0001; (916) 319-2001</p> <p>District Office 280 Hemsted Drive, Suite 110, Redding, CA 96002; (530) 223-6300 356 Providence Mine Road, Office 6, Nevada City, CA 95959; (530) 265-0601</p>








▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
<p>Daly, Tom</p> 	69	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Tom Daly</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4650 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0069; (916) 319-2069</p> <p>District Office 2400 East Katella Avenue, Suite 640, Anaheim, CA 92806; (714) 939-8469</p>
<p>Davies, Laurie</p> 	73	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Laurie Davies</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4720 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0073; (916) 319-2073</p> <p>District Office 31473 Rancho Viejo Road, Suite 104, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675; (949) 240-7300</p>
<p>Flora, Heath</p> 	12	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Heath Flora</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4730 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0012; (916) 319-2012</p> <p>District Office 578 North Wilma Avenue, Suite B, Ripon, CA 95366; (209) 599-2112</p>
<p>Fong, Mike</p> 	49	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Mike Fong</p> <p>Capitol Office, Room 5230 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0049; (916) 319-2049</p> <p>District Office 1255 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 216, Monterey Park, CA 91754; (323) 264-4949</p>
<p>Fong, Vince</p> 	34	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Vince Fong</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4630 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0034; (916) 319-2034</p> <p>District Office 4550 California Avenue, Suite 740, Bakersfield, CA 93309; (661) 395-2995</p>
<p>Friedman, Laura</p> 	43	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Laura Friedman</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6310 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0043; (916) 319-2043</p> <p>District Office 300 East Magnolia Boulevard, Suite 504, Burbank, CA 91502; (818) 558-3043</p>
<p>Gabriel, Jesse</p> 	45	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5220 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0045; (916) 319-2045</p> <p>District Office 20750 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 101, Woodland Hills, CA 91364; (818) 346-4521</p>
<p>Gallagher, James</p> 	03	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member James Gallagher</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4740 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0003; (916) 319-2003</p> <p>District Office 2060 Talbert Drive, Suite 110, Chico, CA 95928; (530) 895-4217 1130 Civic Center Boulevard, Suite F, Yuba City, CA 95993; (530) 671-0303</p>
<p>Garcia, Cristina</p> 	58	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Cristina Garcia</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8140 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0058; (916) 319-2058</p> <p>District Office 8255 Firestone Boulevard, Suite 203, Downey, CA 90241; (562) 861-5803</p>
<p>Garcia, Eduardo</p> 	56	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8120 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0056; (916) 319-2056</p> <p>District Office 48220 Jackson Street, Suite A3, Coachella, CA 92236; (760) 347-2360 1101 Airport Road, Suite D, Imperial, CA 92251; (760) 355-8656</p>

▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
Gipson, Mike A. 	64	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8110 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0064; (916) 319-2064 District Office 879 West 190th Street, Suite 920, Gardena, CA 90248; (310) 324-6408 205 South Willowbrook Avenue, Compton, CA 90220; (310) 605-5557
Gray, Adam C. 	21	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Adam C. Gray Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4350 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0021; (916) 319-2021 District Office 690 West 16th Street, Merced, CA 95340; (209) 726-5465 1010 Tenth Street, Suite 5800, Modesto, CA 95354; (209) 521-2111
Grayson, Timothy S. 	14	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Timothy S. Grayson Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5510 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0014; (916) 319-2014 District Office 2151 Salvio Street, Suite P, Concord, CA 94520; (925) 521-1511 420 Virginia Street, Suite C-1, Vallejo, CA 94590; (707) 642-0314
Holden, Chris R. 	41	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Chris R. Holden Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5650 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0041; (916) 319-2041 District Office 600 North Rosemead Boulevard, Suite 117, Pasadena, CA 91107; (626) 351-1917 415 West Foothill Boulevard, Suite 124, Claremont, CA 91711; (909) 624-7876
Irwin, Jacqui 	44	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6220 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0044; (916) 319-2044 District Office 2301 East Daily Drive, Suite 200, Camarillo, CA 93010; (805) 482-1904 230 West 7th Street, Oxnard, CA 93030; (805)483-4488
Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Reginald Byron 	59	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr. Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5210 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0059; (916) 319-2059 District Office 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037; (213) 744-2111
Kalra, Ash 	27	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Ash Kalra Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5130 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0027; (916) 319-2027 District Office 100 Paseo De San Antonio, Suite 319, San Jose, CA 95113; (408) 277-1220
Kiley, Kevin 	06	Republican	Contact Assembly Member Kevin Kiley Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4530 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0006; (916) 319-2006 District Office 8799-A Auburn Folsom Road, Granite Bay, CA 95746; (916) 774-4430
Lackey, Tom 	36	Republican	Contact Assembly Member Tom Lackey Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5340 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0036; (916) 319-2036 District Office 41301 12th Street West, Suite F, Palmdale, CA 93551; (661) 267-7636
Lee, Alex 	25	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Alex Lee Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6330 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0025; (916) 319-2025 District Office 1313 North Milpitas Boulevard, Suite 255, Milpitas, CA 95035; (408) 262-2501

▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
<p>Levine, Marc</p> 	10	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Marc Levine</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5240 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0010; (916) 319-2010</p> <p>District Office 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 412, San Rafael, CA 94903; (415) 479-4920 11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952; (707) 576-2631 50 D Street, Suite 301, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; (707) 576-2631</p>
<p>Low, Evan</p> 	28	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Evan Low</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6110 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0028; (916) 319-2028</p> <p>District Office 20111 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 220, Cupertino, CA 95014; (408) 446-2810</p>
<p>Maienschein, Brian</p> 	77	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Brian Maienschein</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5640 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0077; (916) 319-2077</p> <p>District Office 12396 World Trade Drive, Suite 118, San Diego, CA 92128; (858) 675-0077</p>
<p>Mathis, Devon J.</p> 	26	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Devon J. Mathis</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5530 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0026; (916) 319-2026</p> <p>District Office 100 West Willow Plaza, Suite 405, Visalia, CA 93291; (559) 636-3440</p>
<p>Maves, Chad</p> 	42	Independent	<p>Contact Assembly Member Chad Maves</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4710 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0042; (916) 319-2042</p> <p>District Office 41608 Indian Trail Road, Suite D-1, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270; (760) 346-6342</p>
<p>McCarty, Kevin</p> 	07	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Kevin McCarty</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4250 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0007; (916) 319-2007</p> <p>District Office 915 L Street, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 324-4676</p>
<p>Medina, Jose</p> 	61	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Jose Medina</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6210 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0061; (916) 319-2061</p> <p>District Office 1223 University Avenue, Suite 230, Riverside, CA 92507; (951) 369-6644</p>
<p>Mullin, Kevin</p> 	22	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Kevin Mullin</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8320 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0022; (916) 319-2022</p> <p>District Office 1528 South El Camino Real, Suite 302, San Mateo, CA 94402; (650) 349-2200</p>
<p>Muratsuchi, Al</p> 	66	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5610 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0066; (916) 319-2066</p> <p>District Office 3424 West Carson Street, Suite 450, Torrance, CA 90503; (310) 375-0691</p>
<p>Nazarian, Adrin</p> 	46	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6230 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0046; (916) 319-2046</p> <p>District Office 6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 300, Van Nuys, CA 91401; (818) 376-4246</p>

▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
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<p>O'Donnell, Patrick</p> 	70	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4510 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0070; (916) 319-2070</p> <p>District Office 5000 East Spring Street, Suite 550, Long Beach, CA 90815; (562) 429-0470 461 West 6th Street, Suite 209, San Pedro, CA 90731; (310) 548-6420</p>
<p>Patterson, Jim</p> 	23	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Jim Patterson</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4310 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0023; (916) 319-2023</p> <p>District Office 6245 North Fresno Street, Suite 106, Fresno, CA 93710; (559) 446-2029</p>
<p>Petrie-Norris, Cottie</p> 	74	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4230 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0074; (916) 319-2074</p> <p>District Office 19712 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92612; (949) 251-0074</p>
<p>Quirk, Bill</p> 	20	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Bill Quirk</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5120 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0020; (916) 319-2020</p> <p>District Office 22320 Foothill Boulevard, Suite 540, Hayward, CA 94541; (510) 583-8818</p>
<p>Quirk-Silva, Sharon</p> 	65	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4210 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0065; (916) 319-2065</p> <p>District Office 1440 North Harbor Boulevard, Suite 270, Fullerton, CA 92835; (714) 525-6515</p>
<p>Ramos, James C.</p> 	40	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member James C. Ramos</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4110 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0040; (916) 319-2040</p> <p>District Office 10350 Commerce Center Drive, Suite A-200, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730; (909) 476-5023</p>
<p>Rendon, Anthony</p> 	63	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Anthony Rendon</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8330 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0063; (916) 319-2063</p> <p>District Office 4909 Lakewood Boulevard, Suite 400, Lakewood, CA 90712; (562) 529-3250</p>
<p>Reyes, Eloise Gómez</p> 	47	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Eloise Gómez Reyes</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8210 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0047; (916) 319-2047</p> <p>District Office 290 North D Street, Suite 903, San Bernardino, CA 92401; (909) 381-3238</p>
<p>Rivas, Luz M.</p> 	39	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Luz M. Rivas</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6140 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0039; (916) 319-2039</p> <p>District Office 9300 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, First Floor, Arleta, CA 91331; (818) 504-3911</p>

▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
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<p>Rodriguez, Freddie</p> 	52	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5250 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0052; (916) 319-2052</p> <p>District Office 13160 7th Street, Chino, CA 91710; (909) 902-9606</p>
<p>Rubio, Blanca E.</p> 	48	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Blanca E. Rubio</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5140 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0048; (916) 319-2048</p> <p>District Office 100 North Barranca Street, Suite 895, West Covina, CA 91791; (626) 960-4457</p>
<p>Salas, Jr., Rudy</p> 	32	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Rudy Salas, Jr.</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4610 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0032; (916) 319-2032</p> <p>District Office 1430 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 803, Bakersfield, CA 93301; (661) 335-0302 113 Court Street, Suite 201, Hanford, CA 93230; (559) 585-7170</p>
<p>Santiago, Miguel</p> 	53	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Miguel Santiago</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 6150 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0053; (916) 319-2053</p> <p>District Office 320 West Fourth Street, Room 1050, Los Angeles, CA 90013; (213) 620-4646</p>
<p>Sevarto, Kelly</p> 	67	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Kelly Sevarto</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4340 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0067; (916) 319-2067</p> <p>District Office 41391 Kalmia Street, Suite 220, Murrieta, CA 92562; (951) 894-1232</p>
<p>Smith, Thurston "Smitty"</p> 	33	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Thurston "Smitty" Smith</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4320 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0033; (916) 319-2033</p> <p>District Office 9700 Seventh Avenue, Suite 227, Hesperia, CA 92345; (760) 244-5277</p>
<p>Stone, Mark</p> 	29	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Mark Stone</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5740 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0029; (916) 319-2029</p> <p>District Office 701 Ocean Street, Suite 318-B, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-1503 99 Pacific Street, Suite 575C, Monterey, CA 93940; (831) 649-2832</p>
<p>Ting, Philip Y.</p> 	19	Democrat	<p>Contact Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8230 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0019; (916) 319-2019</p> <p>District Office 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14600, San Francisco, CA 94102; (415) 557-2312</p>
<p>Valladares, Suzette Martinez</p> 	38	Republican	<p>Contact Assembly Member Suzette Martinez Valladares</p> <p>Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4330 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0038; (916) 319-2038</p> <p>District Office 27441 Tourney Road, Suite 160, Santa Clarita, CA 91355; (661) 286-1565</p>

▲ Name	District	Party	Office Information
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Ward, Christopher M. 	78	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Christopher M. Ward Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4220 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0078; (916) 319-2078 District Office 1350 Front Street, Suite 6054, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 645-3090
Weber, M.D., Akilah 	79	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Akilah Weber, M.D. Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4130 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0079; (916) 319-2079 District Office 1350 Front Street, Suite 6046, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 531-7913
Wicks, Buffy 	15	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Buffy Wicks Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 4240 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0015; (916) 319-2015 District Office 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2201, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 286-1400
Wood, Jim 	02	Democrat	Contact Assembly Member Jim Wood Capitol Office, 1020 N Street, Room 390 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0002; (916) 319-2002 District Office 50 D Street, Suite 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; (707) 576-2526 1036 5th Street, Suite D, Eureka, CA 95501; (707) 445-7014 200 South School Street, Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482; (707) 463-5770
Vacant, AD11	11	Democrat	Contact AD11 Vacant Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5150 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0011; (916) 319-2011 District Office 1261 Travis Boulevard, Suite 110, Fairfield, CA 94533; (707) 399-3011 150 City Park Way, Brentwood, CA 94513; (925) 513-0411
Vacant, AD17	17	Democrat	Contact AD17 Vacant Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5310 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0017; (916) 319-2017 District Office 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14300, San Francisco, CA 94102; (415) 557-3013
Vacant, AD62	62	Democrat	Contact AD62 Vacant Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5230 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0062; (916) 319-2062 District Office One Manchester Boulevard, Suite 601, Inglewood, CA 90301; (310) 412-6400
Vacant, AD80	80	Democrat	Contact AD80 Vacant Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 8220 P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0080; (916) 319-2080 District Office 1350 Front Street, Suite 6022, San Diego, CA 92101; (619) 338-8090

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District Offices

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420 Virginia Street, Suite 1-C, Vallejo, CA 94590; (707) 551-2389
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Susan Talamantes Eggman (D)

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50 D Street, Suite 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95404; (707) 576-2771
200 South School Street, Suite F, Ukiah, CA 95482; (707) 468-8914
1080 Mason Mall, Suite 4, Crescent City, CA 95531; (707) 464-1255
1036 5th Street, Suite D, Eureka, CA 95501; (707) 445-6508
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1021 O Street, Suite 7710, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; (916) 651-4027

District Office

5016 N. Parkway Calabasas, Suite 222, Calabasas, CA 91302; (818) 876-3352



Thomas J. Umberg (D)

District 34

Capitol Office

1021 O Street, Suite 6730, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; (916) 651-4034

District Office

1000 East Santa Ana Blvd., Suite 220B, Santa Ana, CA 92701; (714) 558-3785



Bob Wieckowski (D)

District 10

Capitol Office

1021 O Street, Suite 6530, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; (916) 651-4410

District Offices

39510 Paseo Padre Parkway, Suite 280, Fremont, CA 94538; (510) 794-3900



Scott D. Wiener (D)

District 11

Capitol Office

1021 O Street, Suite 6630, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; (916) 651-4011

District Office

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14800, San Francisco, CA 94102; (415) 557-1300



Scott Wilk (R)

District 21

Capitol Office

1021 O Street, Suite 7640, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; (916) 651-4021

District Offices

848 W. Lancaster Blvd., Suite 101, Lancaster, CA 93534; (661) 729-6232
23920 Valencia Blvd., Suite 250, Santa Clarita, CA 91355; (661) 286-1471
14343 Civic Drive, First Floor, Victorville, CA 92392; (760) 843-8414

9. Template Letter to Request A Support Letter From An Elected Representative

Dear [Name of Elected],

My name is [your name]. I am writing to ask [Name of elected representative] to write a letter in support of my clemency application. [Describe any connection the representative has to you, your family, or your experience, especially if you are a constituent].

I have served [number of months and years] in prison. A [pardon/commutation/medical reprieve] does not erase the harm caused by me, nor does it erase my commitment to making amends. Rather, clemency recognizes my personal transformation and allows me to continue serving and contributing to my family and community. **[Alternate language:** If you maintain your innocence and cannot state that you committed the crime, or if you were convicted for someone else's actions, you can phrase it as "I was convicted of__."]

At the time of my conviction, I was struggling in the following ways.[Here you may add an explanation of any mitigating factors regarding the crime here: your age if under 26 years old; any history of domestic or sexual violence; addiction of any kind, including a history of addiction in your family; the impact of discrimination due to race, gender, economic status, disability.]

I am committed to my personal growth and gaining skills. [Describe the programs and types of work you have participated in, your plans for the future, familial and community connections, job opportunities, stable reentry plans, housing arrangements upon release, and other reasons you are deserving of a grant of clemency. If you have already been released from prison, describe what you have been doing since your release (e.g., your employment, community service, or reconnecting with family and community)].

My request for clemency is urgent for the following reasons. [Describe any circumstances that make your clemency critical (for example, you are medically vulnerable or are facing deportation). If you are applying for a medical reprieve, name your medical condition(s), the type of care you need, and why it is necessary for you to receive medical care in the community and not in prison].

Include this paragraph if you are applying for a medical reprieve:

I have been diagnosed with the following medical conditions: [name your diagnoses]. Due to my serious health conditions, I require the following medical care [describe, in detail, the types of care you need, and why it is necessary for you to receive medical care in the community, and not in prison]. If released, I will live [name of residence where you can live] and will receive necessary medical care from [name of health services provider].

Attached is a sample support letter that [Name of Elected] can personalize. Please send the letter to [email address or mailing address]. I look forward to your response. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any more information.

Sincerely,
[Your name and the best way to contact you]

10. Template Support Letter From An Elected Representative

Attach this sample/template letter to your requests to elected representatives, or include it in a physical letter.

[yellow highlight] = fill in before sending to the elected representative [blue highlight] = leave blank for the elected representative to fill in

[Letterhead]

[Date]

California Governor

State Capitol

Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for [Applicant/Your Name]'s [Commutation/Pardon/Medical Reprieve] Application

Dear Governor [Name of Current Governor],

I represent [X District]. [Include any information on your connection to the applicant, the applicant's family, or the applicant's experience.]

I write in strong support of [Applicant/Your Name]'s clemency application. [If your clemency is urgent, explain why here]. [Your name] has served [months/years] in prison. **Alternate language if you've already been released:** [Your name] was released from prison on [date of your release], and has been contributing to their community in the following ways [list contributions since your release.] [Your name] carries deep remorse for decisions [he/she/they] made and for the harm those decisions caused. Today, [Your name] is committed to leading a productive life and making amends for harm [your pronoun] caused. A [pardon/commutation/medical reprieve] does not erase the harm caused by [Your name], nor does it erase [his/her/their] commitment to making amends. Rather, clemency recognizes [his/her/their] personal transformation and allows [him/her/them] to continue serving and contributing to [his/her/their] family and community. **Alternate language:** If you maintain your innocence and cannot state that you committed the crime, or if you were convicted for someone else's actions, you can phrase it as "I was convicted of."

At the time of [his/her/their] conviction, [Your Name] struggled in the following ways. [Provide context for your conviction(s) here. (E.g., your age if under 26 years old; any history of domestic or sexual violence; addiction of any kind, including a history of addiction in your family; the impact of discrimination due to race, gender, economic status, disability; or refugee background.)]

[Your name]'s commitment to personal growth is evident in [his/her/their] participation in the following self-help and educational programs. [Describe in detail the self-help programs, self-reflection work, job experience, or leadership roles you have participated in or taken on that have contributed to your personal growth. If you have already been released from prison, describe what you have been doing since your release (e.g., your employment, community service, or reconnecting with family and community)]. Clearly, [Your name] has the skills and experience to succeed and continue to contribute to their community.

[Your name]'s request for clemency is urgent and should be expedited for the following reasons. [Describe any circumstances that make your clemency urgent (for example, you are facing deportation). If you face deportation you can describe your strong ties to the United States, why it may be dangerous for you to be in immigration detention and deported, and why it is important that you remain in the United States].

Include this paragraph if you are applying for a medical reprieve:

[Your name]'s request for clemency is urgent and should be expedited for the following reasons. [Your name] has been diagnosed with the following medical conditions [name your diagnoses]. Due to [his/her/their] serious health conditions, [Your name] requires the following medical care [describe, in detail, the types of care you need, and why it is necessary for you to receive medical care in the community, and not in prison]. If released, [Your name] will live [name of residence where you can live] and will receive necessary medical care from [name of health services provider].

I strongly encourage you to grant [Your name] clemency application. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any more information.

Sincerely,
[Signature & Title, Contact Information]

11. Template Letter to Request Support For A Resolution

Subject: Please Support [City/County] Resolution In Support of [Your Name]'s Clemency Application

Dear [Name of City/County Councilmember],

I am writing to ask for your support in passing a resolution in support of [Your name]'s clemency application. [Explain in a few sentences why you are applying for clemency and the connections you have to the city or county in which the resolution will be introduced and voted on.]

This resolution presents an opportunity for [city/county] to demonstrate a solid commitment to criminalized individuals who [insert a description related to your experience (e.g., entered the United States as refugees and survivors of war, are survivors of violence, or have worked tirelessly to rehabilitate)].

[Describe self-help or educational courses, employment, community work, and accomplishments you have done.] A grant of clemency would [explain what a commutation or pardon would do for you and why it is important to you].

Please vote "Yes!" on [City/County] resolution in support of [Applicant's] clemency application. Thank you for your time and consideration, and let me know if you have questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
[Name and contact information]

12. Sample Resolutions in Support of Clemency Applications

[Full resolution: [Danny Thongsy](#) (see on following page), Oakland resolution for [Danny and Sakhone](#)]

1 [Urging a Full Pardon of Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy]

2
3 **Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant**
4 **Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy a full pardon to allow them**
5 **to remain in the United States.**
6

7 WHEREAS, The American War in Southeast Asia (Vietnam War/Secret War) resulted
8 in refugee resettlement to the United States of people from Laos, including people from the
9 Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lu-Mien, Khmu and other ethnic minority groups; and

10 WHEREAS, Many of the same refugees have been served deportation orders, some
11 who have no family ties, do not speak the language, or have never lived in Laos; and if
12 deported would face marginalization, violence, or death; and

13 WHEREAS, Sakhone Lasaphangthong was born in war-torn Laos, was separated from
14 four out of his nine siblings at the age of 5, and lived at a refugee camp in Thailand for two
15 years before arriving in the United States to California; and

16 WHEREAS, Lasaphangthong experienced the trauma of war in Laos, grew up when
17 “tough-on-crime” policies criminalized communities of color resulting in mass incarceration
18 and children serving life sentences, and wound up in the criminal justice system at age 22 for
19 second degree murder; and

20 WHEREAS, While incarcerated for 20 years of a 30-year sentence before being
21 granted parole, Lasaphangthong transformed his life, devoting his time to education, attaining
22 three associate degrees in social and behavioral science, general business, and American
23 studies; leveraging his status among other prisoners to convince them to join the college
24 program, increasing the attendance from 4 to 300; and
25

1 WHEREAS, Following his release, Lasaphangthong made numerous positive
2 contributions to his community and society, moving to San Francisco, working as an
3 Ambassador for Asian Prisoner Support Committee and Housing Manager for Family Bridges,
4 cleaning streets in Oakland Chinatown and connecting homeless individuals with resources,
5 and spearheading a campaign to successfully move 38 individuals from the streets into the
6 Oak Street Community Cabins; and

7 WHEREAS, Lasaphangthong is facing imminent deportation to Laos, away from his
8 home in the United States to a country he fled as a small child; and

9 WHEREAS, Somdeng “Danny” Thongsy was born in a refugee camp in Thailand after
10 his family fled the war in Laos and later resettled in Stockton California; and

11 WHEREAS, Thongsy experienced the traumas of war in Laos, the violent death of his
12 brother, growing up in an impoverished neighborhood, and wound up incarcerated as a minor
13 at the age of 17 for second degree murder; and

14 WHEREAS, While incarcerated for more than 20 years, Thongsy transformed his life,
15 incurring no disciplinary record throughout prison, graduating with a high school and college
16 degree, joining and facilitating numerous self-help programs, mentoring others to make
17 positive choices, finding spirituality and becoming active in chapel programs and religious
18 studies, advocating with Kids Creating Awareness Together (Kid CAT), helping pass
19 California’s Senate Bill (SB) 260 and SB261 Fair Sentencing for Youth, to give youth impacted
20 by the criminal justice system a fair chance of parole; and

21 WHEREAS, Following his release, Thongsy made numerous positive contributions to
22 his community and society, beginning a fellowship at Asian Americans Advancing Justice –
23 Asian Law Caucus (AAJC-ALC) as a Yuri Kochiyama Fellow, engaging in community
24 outreach as a member of the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, being active in his church
25 community and interfaith organizations, volunteering extensively in the Bay Area helping with

1 re-entry support and teaching origami to youth, attending leadership workshops and
2 conferences, and promoting community justice and safety as a Campaigner/Coordinator at
3 the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County; and

4 WHEREAS, Thongsy is facing imminent deportation to Laos, a country he has never
5 set foot in because of his immigration status, and the United States is the only country he has
6 known given that he arrived here as a refugee when he was 2 years old; and

7 WHEREAS, Pardon is one of the only ways to prevent deportation, and would give
8 Lasaphangthong and Thongsy the chance to remain in the United States and remain as
9 contributing members of society; and

10 WHEREAS, On April 2, 2019, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously
11 passed File No. 190320, which is a resolution respectfully urging the Trump Administration to
12 stop the massive deportation of rehabilitated formerly incarcerated Southeast Asian nationals;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports an immigration
15 system that keeps families together and does not determine a person's value by their
16 immigration status or whether they have been incarcerated; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco condemns the
18 deportation of Southeast Asian refugees in the United States, especially ethnic minorities, and
19 does not support the removal of Lasaphangthong and Thongsy from the U.S.; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requests that
21 Governor Gavin Newsom pardon Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy
22 so they can remain in their homes in the United States and continue to improve our
23 community; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
25 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to Federal and State Representatives in San

1 Francisco with a request to take all action necessary to achieve the objectives of this
2 Resolution.

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City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 200247

Date Passed: March 10, 2020

Resolution urging the Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, to grant Sakhone Lasaphangthong and Somdeng "Danny" Thongsy a full pardon to allow them to remain in the United States.

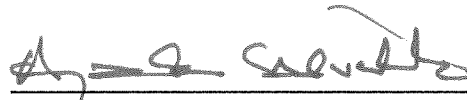
March 10, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Mandelman, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

Absent: 3 - Fewer, Haney and Peskin

File No. 200247

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/10/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board


UNSIGNED

3/20/2020

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

3/20/2020

Date

13. Journalist Style Guides

<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021.07-CommUnity-StyleGuide-R4.pdf> (See on following page)

<https://curbprisonspending.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Oct-2021-CURB-Language-Guide-.pdf>



JOURNALIST STYLE GUIDE

Covering Immigrants with Convictions

Second Edition • July 28, 2021



Prepared by the **Comm/Unity Network**

NOTE:

The first edition of this style guide was released a year ago, at a pivotal moment to defend Black lives in the United States. Since then, the U.S. has continued to grapple with issues surrounding systemic racism, including at the intersection of mass incarceration and the immigration system.

INTRODUCTION

Across the U.S., there is unprecedented recognition that policing and incarceration have led to the criminalization of Black people and communities of color. Data has also shown that federal policies which co-mingle policing and incarceration with deportation have deeply hurt immigrants of color, with [disproportionate](#) harm to Black immigrants.

Meanwhile, the number of people held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention has skyrocketed in the first half of 2021. Longstanding issues of medical neglect fueled ICE's highest death rate in detention in fiscal year 2020. About a third of those who lost their lives in ICE custody in FY 2020 had tested positive for COVID-19, indicating that immigrants in detention remain at risk of abuse and neglect on multiple fronts. Often with the leadership of Black immigrants, detained people continue to organize—with a [new report](#) showing that ICE subjected detained people on hunger strike to force-feeding.

It remains crucial to portray the full humanity and life experiences of people facing detention and deportation.

FOR EDITORS AND REPORTERS

A growing number of publications and editors are assessing their use of language and the way stories about systemic racism are told. A June 2020 article in the Economist [notes](#), “Seeing the bias in even innocently intended language is a first step towards understanding that there is still work to do.”

Last year, the Associated Press [adopted](#) the longstanding practice of many news outlets in capitalizing the word Black; a decision we applaud. Earlier this decade, many newsrooms, including AP, [decided](#) to stop using the word “illegal” as a noun to describe immigrants without documents.

We hope this guide is a meaningful contribution to conversations in the newsrooms around language and storytelling regarding immigrants who have had contact with the criminal justice system. In this new edition, we have added new recommendations regarding photographs, mugshots, and B-roll, as well as updating key data where relevant and updating our list of sources. Since initial publication, we are glad to see additional style guides emerge relating to people impacted by the criminal-legal system, including The Marshall Project's [“Language Project”](#) in April 2021.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Background

1. Multiple layers of injustice
2. Beyond the labels
3. COVID-19 context

II. Key information and recommendations

1. The criminal legal system
 - A. Brief background and recommendations
 - B. Chart: Problematic terms to reconsider
2. The immigration system
 - A. Chart: Problematic terms to reconsider
 - B. Background
3. Suggestions for interviewing a person with a conviction who is facing detention/deportation
4. When ICE sensationalizes cases
5. Avoiding oversimplification
 - A. Chart: Problematic concepts to reconsider
6. Sources
7. Photographics, mugshots and B-roll

III. Who We Are: About the Comm/Unity Network

BACKGROUND

MULTIPLE LAYERS OF INJUSTICE

People facing deportation, including those in detention, come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. This includes people fleeing dangerous conditions, green card holders, visa holders, and long-term undocumented residents of the U.S. Among them are community members who have had contact with the U.S.' flawed criminal legal system, including arrests by local police and/ or convictions. A growing body of research has [demonstrated](#) the criminal legal system suffers from severe obstacles to equal justice which have led to tremendous racial disparities, with particular harm to Black people.

But in direct contradiction to criminal justice reform efforts, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) funnels people who have already been deemed eligible for release from prisons or jails into its sprawling system of immigration detention and deportation. An increasing number of [lawmakers](#) and experts have questioned this extra layer of punishment, which comes after a person has completed their time in the criminal legal system, as unethical and unnecessary. ICE targets green card holders and those without current status alike.

BEYOND THE LABELS

Journalists have [documented](#) that ICE routinely uses inflammatory language to dehumanize immigrants, including people with past records.

People with past records include [survivors of violence](#) and people who have fled war and [genocide](#). They include people who have been subjected to [racial profiling](#) and people who have [changed their lives](#) after past mistakes. They include people who were [stripped of their green cards](#) under laws members of Congress have denounced as discriminatory, as well as people who currently lack immigration status due to the federal government's inability to create a workable immigration process. They have family or loved ones hurt by their absence who eagerly await and often advocate for their release.

KEY INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In recent years, health professionals and experts have [called](#) for “people-centered” language when describing individuals in the criminal justice context. Additionally, over the last decade, many newsrooms have changed their style guides to avoid terms that are pejorative toward immigrants. The following recommendations address the intersection of these two issues.

THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

BRIEF BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- As numerous scholars have [documented](#), the roots of systemic racism in policing extend back to the [era of slavery](#).
- The U.S. currently incarcerates more people than any other nation on earth: [2.3 million people as of March 2020](#). According to [The Sentencing Project](#):
 - “African American adults are 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than whites and (Latinxs) are 3.1 times as likely.”
 - “The United States in effect operates two distinct criminal justice systems: one for wealthy people and another for poor people and people of color.”
- 70% of all U.S. adults have committed an offense that could lead to incarceration, according to [Politifact](#), showing the vast reach of criminalization in the United States.
- A nationwide [poll](#) published in 2017 found most crime survivors “prefer investments in rehabilitation and treatment over increased incarceration and the deportation of immigrants.” Innovative scholars have long argued that mass incarceration is [unnecessary](#).

PROBLEMATIC TERMS TO RECONSIDER

PROBLEMATIC TERM	CONCERNS	ALTERNATIVES
“Criminal;” “convicted criminal”	Even former prosecutors have noted that “criminal” is a vague term that covers a vast array of conduct.	Person, person with a conviction
“Felon;” “convict;” “ex-con;” “offender”	As health experts have noted, this carries a significant amount of stigma. These terms may paint an overly simplistic picture to readers.	Person with a felony conviction

A discussion of additional terms, based on the perspective of incarcerated people themselves, is available in [this article](#) from the Marshall Project.

THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Creating sharp dichotomies between those deemed “criminal” as opposed to those deemed “non-criminal” obscures systematic racial disparities, the complexity of the law at play in both the immigration and criminal legal systems, and individuals’ life circumstances.

A 2016 [report](#) by the Black Alliance for Just Immigration found “while Black immigrants make up only 7.2% of the noncitizen population in the U.S., they make up 20.3% of immigrants facing deportation ... on criminal grounds.” Additionally, Black immigrants are [6 times more likely](#) to be locked in solitary confinement while in detention. This reality has all too often been ignored in the discourse around immigration and criminalization, leading to the erasure of Black immigrants.

“...while **Black immigrants** make up only **7.2% of the noncitizen population** in the U.S., they make up **20.3% of immigrants facing deportation...** on criminal grounds...”

PROBLEMATIC TERMS TO RECONSIDER

PROBLEMATIC TERM	CONCERNS	ALTERNATIVES
“Illegal immigrant”	This term ignores the complexities of immigration status and has been widely rejected by news organizations over the last several years.	Undocumented immigrant, Immigrant without current status
“Aggravated felon”	“Aggravated felony” is a complicated “term of art” introduced by harsh immigration laws. The term has little connection with its colloquial meaning and includes a vast range of conduct.	Formerly incarcerated immigrant, Person with a criminal record, or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person convicted/charged with a crime considered an ‘aggravated felony’ under immigration law
“Deported felon”	“Felon” is a charged term that focuses on one narrow aspect of a person’s identity and tells readers nothing about the circumstances of the individual’s life. It is worth noting that anti-immigrant organizations have for several decades sought to use this term to build a narrative which criminalizes immigrants.	Deported person, Person who was deported after completing a sentence

PROBLEMATIC TERM	CONCERNS	ALTERNATIVES
<p>“Felon committing illegal entry or reentry”</p>	<p>The 1929 law creates a vicious cycle where people are separated from their families, deported, and when they seek to return home, they are convicted of misdemeanors and felonies. Systematically labeling immigrants as “criminals” and “felons,” through language and law, has been a tactic used by white supremacists going back to the one who originally sponsored this law nearly a century ago.</p>	<p>Person seeking to return to the U.S.</p>
<p>“Criminal alien”</p>	<p>“Alien” is an offensive term; and together, these two words risk sensationalizing the issue.</p>	<p>Formerly incarcerated immigrant, Person with a criminal record</p>

BACKGROUND: THE LEGAL ARCHITECTURE OF CRIMINALIZATION

- Harsh laws passed in 1996 vastly [expanded](#) the grounds for deportation, while curtailing due process and barring judges from considering the individual circumstances of a person’s life in many cases. These laws, which tied the immigration system to the criminal legal system, also automatically strip many green card holders of immigration status. Due to these laws, ICE targets people for deportation after they have completed their sentence or been deemed eligible for release, sometimes decades later. Even conservative republicans came to [regret](#) some of the laws’ impacts.
- “Unauthorized entry” and “reentry” to the United States were made crimes (under criminal law) due to legislation sponsored by “unrepentant” white supremacist Senator Coleman Blease in 1929, as the Washington Post [reported](#) last year.

FURTHER BACKGROUND

- U.S. law generally considers most issues related to immigration detention and deportation to be matters under “civil” or administrative law. This has several little-understood implications.
- In civil proceedings, unlike criminal proceedings, legal representation is not guaranteed. People must find or pay for their own attorneys. Legal experts note there is no other area of U.S. law where detained people must advocate for their liberty against trained government lawyers without guaranteed legal representation.
- Yet under immigration law, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can nonetheless deprive immigrants of liberty during deportation proceedings, and even deport many people without a hearing.
- The “civil” nature of immigration detention also means that ICE has significant authority to quickly free people from detention. Unfortunately, ICE rarely exercises its discretion in this manner, particularly for people with prior interactions with the criminal legal system.

THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

- Portray people in their full humanity. Describe their aspirations and hopes, interests, family and community life, the challenges they've faced in life and how they have changed over the years.
- If the person is being interviewed for a short comment or reaction, but they are not the focus of the story, consider whether it is necessary to ask about, and/or mention, their criminal record. Is it a relevant detail in the context of the overall story, or does it distract from the piece?
- If you mention the conviction, it is important to dedicate sufficient space in the story - possibly a paragraph - to give appropriate context to the person's life circumstances.

Consider these factors:

- How long ago did the conviction occur?
- What were the circumstances in the person's life at the time? Were they experiencing violence or trauma? How has the person's life since changed?
- How would the person's continued detention or deportation affect their family and loved ones, including U.S. citizens?
- The support the person may have from the broader community.
- What resources did the person have - or lack - to contest the criminal charges they faced prior to being turned over to ICE? What was the quality of legal representation they received, and how might this have affected what they pleaded to or were convicted of? How would someone with greater economic resources have fared?

WHEN ICE SENSATIONALIZES CASES

Scholars have noted that one of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's key tactics is to publicize sensational information regarding crimes allegedly committed by immigrants. Such an attempt to single out one aspect of people's identity as the cause of their actions, and thus scapegoat and demonize immigrants as a whole, has drawn profound concern from [historians](#) and civil rights leaders.

It bears noting that ICE has a significant record of misrepresenting the truth. An agency spokesperson resigned in 2018 saying he was asked to "[flat-out lie](#)." Internal ICE emails [published](#) by The Intercept in 2017 illustrate the agency's concerted attempts to exaggerate the severity of cases. The acting Chief of Staff for ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations told agents:

"Please put together a white paper covering the three most egregious cases," adding: "If a location has only one egregious case – then include an extra egregious case from another city."

ICE appears to have taken a similar approach during the COVID-19 pandemic, publicizing the charges and convictions of medically vulnerable individuals, despite the fact they had been ordered released from detention by court order.

Key questions to consider in response to ICE press statements

- **Is the information accurate?** (At times, new information emerges about a case months or years after the fact.)
- **Is ICE attempting to paint all immigrants with a broad brush**, and/or attempting to paint immigration status as the cause of someone's actions? What other voices can provide an alternate perspective?
- Even in highly charged and politicized cases, how can the principles of due process, and the right to a fair trial, be respected?
- **Family members of people who pass away in ICE detention may be experiencing intense trauma and psychological distress.** It is important to consider how coverage that focuses on an individual's contact with the criminal legal system could further traumatize grieving family members.
 - It is also important to bear in mind that the family members and loved ones of detained people who contract COVID-19 will be experiencing psychological distress

AVOIDING OVERSIMPLIFICATION

There is a stark ethical question one should ask when seeking to distinguish between data points about detained individuals' past interaction with U.S. legal systems: should a person's safety behind bars rely on whether they have been labeled "criminal"?

Over the course of the last year, ICE and Border Patrol detained hundreds of thousands of people in total. While individuals held in these systems are generally detained under civil immigration laws, most are held in the same jails and prisons that also incarcerate people serving criminal sentences, or have been used for that purpose in the past. Because of this, many people, including journalists, feel compelled to distinguish between immigrants in civil custody and people serving time in criminal custody, and to distinguish between people labeled "non-criminal" vs "criminal" in immigration custody.

"... making these ('non-criminal' vs 'criminal') distinctions detracts from the **overly punitive, unjust, and inhumane conditions** all people caught up in both legal systems are facing."

However, making these distinctions detracts from the overly punitive, unjust, and inhumane conditions all people caught up in both legal systems are facing. And it obscures the complexities of the criminal legal system, where colloquial connotations do not always align with technical definitions.

CURRENT CONCEPT	CONCERNS	ALTERNATIVES
<p>“Most detained immigrants are non-criminals and thus should be released”</p>	<p>Individuals in detention who do have contact with the criminal legal system - a system with profound racial disparities - have already completed their sentence or been deemed eligible for release. How long is it reasonable to apply the “criminal” label?</p> <p>In light of the threat posed by the pandemic, should a person’s safety behind bars rely on whether they have received the “criminal” label?</p>	<p>Coverage could focus on the medical vulnerability of individuals; the authority ICE has to quickly release individuals; family and community connections.</p> <p>(Note: At the same time, advocates are supporting calls to release all people from jails and prisons. Incarcerated people’s lives are equally at risk regardless what agency’s custody they are in.)</p>
<p>“Violent offenders”</p>	<p>This simple term masks the complexity of criminal law; with many crimes which may sound ‘violent’ lacking any element of harm and vice-versa.</p> <p>It is also important to consider how much time has passed since the person received or completed the sentence.</p>	<p>Consider whether it is necessary and relevant to mention the conviction. If you determine it is necessary to cover a person’s record, the following may help convey a fuller picture of the person’s life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include not only the conviction, but the life circumstances surrounding it and the time. • Allow space to describe how the individual’s life may have since changed.
<p>Sweeping references to “rapists, murderers, and sex offenders”</p>	<p>This language has been used to fuel stereotypes and demonize immigrants and people of color.</p>	<p>Specific descriptions of facts and circumstances.</p>

PERSPECTIVES ON SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

- ICE frequently makes claims related to public safety. Yet other crucial sources and perspectives related to public safety are all too often left out of the conversation.
 - Violence survivors and violence prevention leaders have increasingly found that [alternative solutions](#) which do not involve incarceration are the most effective options for building community safety.
 - This is a perspective [shared](#) by formerly imprisoned people who have rebuilt their lives.

SOURCES

Members of the media should be aware that certain sources which seek to portray themselves as neutral or more researched-based advocates actually have well-documented ties to nativist, white nationalist organizations. The Southern Poverty Law Center has designated two oft-quoted organizations as hate groups.

- [Center for Immigration Studies \(CIS\)](#) "... has a decades-long history of circulating racist writers, while also associating with white nationalists."
- [Federation for American Immigration Reform \(FAIR\)](#)'s "leaders have ties to white supremacist groups and eugenicists and have made many racist statements."¹

We encourage reporters to elevate the voices of Black immigrants and formerly detained immigrants. The following is an *initial, partial and developing* list of sources who have offered availability to provide comment and context to reporters on the issues discussed in this guide. We will continue to update this list.

CONTACT	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO (no for public distribution)	ISSUE AREAS
Abraham Paulos , Deputy Director of Policy and Communications	Black Alliance for Just Immigration	abraham@baji.org	African American and Black immigrant communities; Anti- Blackness, intersection of incarceration and deportation; Racism in U.S. laws/culture, migration, globalization
Jacinta González , Senior Campaign Organizer	Mijente	jacinta@mijente.net	Intersection of policing and immigration systems, Latinos and: Defund the Police, policing, criminal justice, BLM, COVID impacts; surveillance
Anoop Prasad , Staff Attorney	Asian Law Caucus	anoopp@ advancingjustice-alc.org	People w/ convictions in state prison, including SouthEast Asian Refugees; Pardons; interviews with currently, formerly incarcerated people
Phal Sok , Crimmigration and Technologies Coordinator	Youth Justice Coalition	phal@youthjusticela.org	Immigration, Crimmigration (crime-based deportation), criminal justice, youth justice

¹ Additionally, with the growth in 'disinformation' efforts, we recommend journalists follow practices such as those outlined at <https://firstdraftnews.org/long-form-article/first-drafts-essential-guide-to/>

CONTACT	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO (no for public distribution)	ISSUE AREAS
Lisa Knox, Legal Director	California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice	lisa@ccijustice.org	Efforts to free immigrants from ICE detention through representation, advocacy, litigation; challenging medical neglect in detention and access to vaccination; intersection of immigration and racial justice
Charles Joseph (Bula)	Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity	cjoseph@im4humanintegrity.org	

PHOTOGRAPHS, MUGSHOTS AND B-ROLL

The use of photographs and background images can have a significant influence on how the public perceives issues writ large as well as individual community members’ stories.

A consensus among experts and scholars has emerged that mugshots perpetuate racial stereotypes, demean incarcerated people, and also may impede the reintegration of formerly incarcerated people into society. Thus, a growing number of newsrooms are rethinking their use of mugshots, with the Houston Chronicle banning them altogether. The Trump administration’s highly politicized use of mugshots on billboards in Fall 2020, criticized as exploitative by leading civil rights groups, casts further doubt on this practice.

In an interview with the [Marshall Project](#), Johnny Perez, a formerly incarcerated New Yorker who is currently director of U.S. prison programs for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, said regarding mugshots: **“It reaffirms existing biases and creates biases where none exist.”**

Perez and other advocates have also noted that publishing mugshots may make it harder for formerly incarcerated people to get jobs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Outlets should avoid the use of mugshots and work with community members to find pictures that represent the full context of individuals’ lives
- Editors and journalists should clearly explain the outlet’s process for photo licensing to community members

B-ROLL

Similarly, stock images of faceless immigrants in jumpsuits and chains do not accurately portray the humanity and range of lived experiences among immigrants in ICE detention.

Much B-roll in circulation is provided by government agencies such as <https://www.dvidshub.net/>. By relying excessively on b-roll from government agencies such as ICE and

ABOUT THE “COMM/UNITY” NETWORK

Comm/Unity is a network of national communicators who are working to challenge the criminalization of immigrants and ensure fair and accurate coverage. The network includes the following organizations, many of which are available to speak to reporters:

[Detention Watch Network](#), [Freedom to Thrive](#), [Grassroots Leadership](#), [Immigrant Defense Project](#), [Immigrant Justice Network](#), [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#), [Just Futures Law](#), [Latino Justice](#), [National Immigrant Justice Center](#), [National Immigration Law Center](#), [National Day Laborer Organizing Network](#), [National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild](#), [Southeast Asia Resource Action Center](#), [United We Dream](#). The network is anchored by Immigrant Defense Project.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Jon Rodney, jon@immdefense.org.

14. Petition Tutorials And Example

Petition tutorials

- [How to Start an Online Petition](#) (from California Coalition for Women Prisoners Guide) – *see below*
- [How to create a petition on change.org](#) (change.org webpage)
- [How to create a petition on change.org](#) (YouTube tutorial)
- [How to create a petition on change.org](#) (YouTube tutorial)
- [How to create a petition on Action Network](#) (Action Network webpage)
- [Creating petitions](#) (Action Network webpage)

How to Start an Online Petition (California Coalition for Women Prisoners Guide)

What is an online petition?

A petition is a way to build and show public support for a person or an issue. Anyone can share an online petition on the internet, so anyone with internet access can search for and read online petitions. Online petition sites allow readers to sign petitions and to post comments about why they support petitions. Typically, petition sites only allow supporters who sign the petition to post comments, so public comments on petitions themselves tend to display only positive support.

Decide if you want to post an online public petition

If you want to build public support for yourself or someone else, consider any increased public attention risks. Asking for public support will bring more attention to an issue. So carefully consider the risks of increasing public awareness to yourself, your loved one, or someone with whom you work. For example, we encourage you to evaluate potential concerns about any victims who may be upset by public efforts to support you or your loved one. Consider any harms that could be caused to yourself and others and carefully weigh this in making your decision.

We also encourage caution about sharing detailed information about your case, or another person's case, if there's an active appeal or potential opportunity for resentencing. In some cases, people choose to keep the petition focused on an applicant's personal development and community service in prison, steering clear of conviction info or mitigating factors.

Choose who will be named as the petition host

Anyone can host an online petition – including an individual, group, or organization. The petition host will show up on the petition as the person or group asking for support. It could be the incarcerated/detained person, parent, sibling, friend, church, or community organization. Choose what makes the most sense for you while considering what might most likely increase your chances of building public support.

Choose a title for your petition

Choose a short and action-oriented title. Supporters should be able to determine the subject of the petition quickly, as well as why it's important.

Sample: "Please Grant Clemency for My Mother, [Name]!"

Choose the decision-maker(s) for your petition

For commutations or pardons, California Governor Gavin Newsom is the decision-maker. While it is unnecessary, you can choose additional decision-makers if you plan to advocate to others who may influence your main decision-maker.

Draft a short pitch for your petition

Your petition "pitch" is where you explain what you're asking for and make a pitch to supporters about why you need their help. It should be written from the perspective of the petition host. So, if you're a parent of an incarcerated person, write your narrative from your position as a parent. If you're incarcerated, write the narrative from your perspective – why are you asking for support, and why do you believe supporters should take action on your behalf?

Sample:

In 1996, my son, [name], was sentenced to Life Without Possibility of Parole for self-defense...

Draft a direct message to your decision-maker

This direct message should explain why you want your decision-maker to take action. This message will be sent directly to your decision-maker with automated petition updates via email. It will be what your decision-makers see on the first page of your printable petition.

Sample:

Dear Governor Newsom,

We urge you to commute the sentence of [Name]... because...

Choose a photo to use for your petition

Petitions get much more circulation when there is a photo included. Select an image that the incarcerated person wants to share publicly and scan it or take a picture so that you can upload it to the petition site. (Please choose a legal image from visiting or from a photo sale, or use a picture from before incarceration.)

Choose a petition platform

Different companies have websites where the public can host online petitions (i.e., change.org or Action Network). These are called petition platforms, and they offer petitioners different features. There are several free petition platforms. Some allow petitioners to download the contact information for supporters who sign their petition (i.e. Action Network). Others allow petitioners to engage with supporters in various ways but do not allow hosts to download contact information. Some petition sites (i.e. Change.org) promote a selected number of petitions/issues, which can significantly increase the circulation of petitions and thus the number

of potential supporters. Most petition platforms will ask you how many signatures you'd like as your goal. It's a generally good strategy to choose a number you think is attainable, rather than a vast number that you might never be able to make. Some petition sites set their own goals (i.e. starting at one hundred) which increase as the petition gains support.

Most petition sites allow you to create an account and post petitions for free. Once you choose your petition platform, create an account and sign in.

Create your petition online

Log into your petition platform and choose the option to create a petition (this will be named differently on different sites). Follow the prompts for designing your petition. This will include adding your title, petition pitch, your direct message to your decision-maker, and uploading your photo on the site. Most sites give you the option of previewing your petition before you "publish" it. In any case, once you publish your petition, you can always select the "edit" feature to make changes.

Posting petition updates

Most sites allow hosts to post updates to their petition, which adds update posts to your online petition and sends an email to all petitions signers so far. Posting updates can increase petition circulation, which is a great way to reach more potential supporters. Updates can include "thank you" messages to supporters, requests that supporters continue to share the petition to help build more support, updates from the incarcerated person you are supporting, updates on the campaign, etc.

Circulating and publicizing your petition

Once you've created and published a petition, it's time to circulate and publicize it. What social media platforms will you use? What organizations could help you promote? What individuals do you want to contact directly with a link to the petition? Consider making a list of individuals and organizations to contact with your petition.

Petition examples:

[Danny Thongsy petition](#) (pardon campaign)

[An Thanh Nguyen petition](#) (pardon campaign)

[Kelly Savage petition](#) (commutation campaign)

[Liyah Birru petition](#) (pardon campaign)

[Gabriela Solano petition](#) (commutation campaign)

[Saman Pho petition](#) (pardon campaign)

[Kanoa "Rae" Harris-Pendang petition](#) (commutation campaign)

[Kao Salee petition](#) (pardon campaign)

Examples of Petitions:

15. Sample Biographies

Sample biographies of community members with successful campaigns:

- [Danny Thongsy Autobiography](#) (pardon campaign)
- [An Thanh Nguyen Biography](#) (pardon campaign)
- [Kao Saelee Biography](#) (pardon campaign)
- [Ny Nourn Biography](#) (pardon campaign)

Autobiography of Somdeng Danny Thongsee(y)



In the late 70's my family escaped war in the Communist country of Laos. I was born in a Thai refugee camp. When I was 2 years old we resettled here in America; unfortunately, like many Southeast Asian refugees we lived in an impoverished area of town riddled with violence and drugs. We also carried with us the trauma of war and displacement and with lack of resources to help. Just like many kids growing up in this environment I made poor choices. In addition, I was often bullied and teased by other kids for not having much and for looking different. When I was 17 years old, my older brother was murdered. I did not know how to cope with the grief of losing my brother nor did I know where to turn for help. This led me to make a horrible choice which resulted in the death of a man and the injury of two of his friends.

Incarcerated, I sought therapy and found healing, transformation and accountability through spiritual practice. I explored my trauma through self-help workshops and began to truly understand the root causes of my behavior. I vowed to never cause the harm I once caused and made sure that others won't make the same mistake. I became an advocate in self-help programs, and took on leadership roles by facilitating groups, bible studies and mentoring other prisoners one-on-one. I went back to school and graduated with a college degree in Social Science. I learned the importance of culture, history and identity through the Asian Prisoners Support Committee San Quentin ROOTS program. I became a member of a Juvenile Lifer/Youth Offender group called Kid Creating Awareness Together (Kid CAT) at San Quentin and helped advocated for the passing of California's SB260 and SB261 Fair Sentencing for Youth, which afforded many youth whom had been impacted by California criminal justice system to be given a fair chance of parole.

After two decades of incarceration, the California Board of Parole Hearings and Governor Brown recognized my rehabilitation and that I am deemed not a threat to public safety granted my parole. Unfortunately, upon my release from state prison because of my immigration status I was directly transferred over to DHS/ICE for deportation. I sat in immigration jail for two months with the fear of being sent to a country I have never been to and being permanently separated from my family, community, and the only place I know as home, America. Fortunately, because there was no formal repatriation agreement between the Laotian government and the US I was released under the order of supervision with a regular check in with ICE.

Since being home in February 2017, I continued my role to give back and bring healing to the community as an advocate for criminal justice reform and immigrant rights. I became a member of a community based organization, the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, I sit as an advisory board member of Prison to Employment Connection, and in 2017 I was awarded as a Yuri Kochiyama Fellowship at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus. I continued to shared of my lived experience and spoke on panels, did community outreach, participated in community gathering, worked with elected officials in immigration and pardon cases, advocated for the passing of SB54 the CA Values Act, AB1308 for CA Youth Parole Hearings, AB2845 Pardon and Commutation Reform and met with elected officials at the national level to advocate against deportation. I also helped planned community events and worked with other advocates to address many core issues surrounding the community.

Currently I am a Campaigner/Coordinator for the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County, a non-profit which is composed of community-based and advocacy organizations committed to creating a fair and just public safety system based on effective practices that invest in communities, families, and people. We advocate for equitable and sustainable systems that provide alternatives to policies that criminalize and impoverished communities and harm public safety.

Although I was released from immigration detention in 2017, I am constantly living in a state of fear and uncertainty. In July 2018 the country of Laos, after being pressured with sanctions from

the United States, agreed to accept refugees with deportation orders. This means I can be picked up by ICE agents anytime and deported to the country of Laos. I have never set foot in Laos, a Southeast Asian country my family was forced to flee before I was born. My only path to obtain relief from deportation and remain in the U.S. with my family and community is to receive a pardon from the Governor.

Third-Person Biography Of An Thanh Nguyen



An Thanh Nguyen was born in Vietnam in 1973. Life in Vietnam was very difficult for An and his family. Because An's father worked for the United States during the Vietnam War, in 1975 the Viet Cong put his father in jail for four years. An's family was very poor. His parents and their seven children all lived in one room. When An was about 10 years old, he went to work in a factory that made coconut candy to help his family survive. In 1985, An's mother fled Vietnam by boat with three of his siblings. An was finally able to escape in 1990 when his mother sponsored the rest of his family to immigrate to the United States. They came to the United States craving the

freedom and opportunities they lacked in Vietnam.

After immigrating, An's family struggled with poverty and adjusting to a new country. An struggled in school because he couldn't understand English and was bullied for being an Asian immigrant. He was young, immature, and made a terrible mistake that resulted in a series of robberies. An served over twenty years in prison because of mistakes he made as a young man struggling to adjust to life in this country. Every single day, An regrets the bad decisions he made and the harm he caused others. When he first arrived in prison, An knew he wanted to become a better person. He completed many programs that helped him understand the consequences of his actions. He got his GED, went to college, completed vocational training, and took self-help classes. An is a changed man and wants more than anything to spend the rest of his life giving back to society.

In October 2019, An was transferred from prison to ICE detention. On November 20, 2019, an immigration judge ordered him removed and ICE released him a few days later. After his release, An tried his best to start his life again. He drove his mother to her medical appointments almost every day, found work in a shoe factory, followed all his parole requirements, and attended self-help classes to continue bettering himself.

On March 6, 2020, An was detained by ICE and lost everything he had been working so hard to build. Because his asthma makes him medically vulnerable to COVID-19, An feared for his life in detention. He filed a habeas petition to ask the courts for his release. An was relieved when a

judge ordered his temporary release on April 3. As part of the conditions of An's release, he was ordered to shelter in place in his sister's house in Rosmead.

Since his release in March, An has been trying to rebuild his life again. Shortly after the court amended his shelter-in-place to allow for employment-related travel, An worked hard to find employment to support his family and community members. In December 2020, he found full-time employment working for Williams Sonoma in a shipping warehouse in the City of Industry.

An lives every day in fear that ICE might try to re-detain and deport him. Vietnam has issued a travel document for him, so he fears that ICE will deport him at the soonest time possible. The Vietnamese government took everything away from An and his family. His mother, siblings, and son all live in the United States. An's only path for relief from deportation and to stay united with his family is a pardon from the Governor.

Kao Saelee Biography



Mr. Saelee, a formerly-incarcerated firefighter, seeks a pardon from Governor Newsom because it is the only way for him to be safe from deportation to Laos and be reunited with his family in Fresno, California. Mr. Saelee and his family are Mien refugees from Laos who bravely aided the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. At the age of 5, Mr. Saelee entered the U.S. as a child of war who had witnessed unspeakable violence, famine, and devastation. Mr. Saelee, his parents, grandparents, and three younger siblings settled in northern California. In America, Mr. Saelee's parents, who worked as farmers in Laos, struggled to make ends meet. His father worked odd jobs to support his family, and even commuted from the Central Valley to San Jose to work as a welder.

During their free time, Mr. Saelee's parents took their children fishing, camping, and on trips to visit relatives in the Bay Area.

While Mr. Saelee was loved by his family, he felt completely lost at school. Because Mr. Saelee did not speak English, was Mien, and poor, he did not fit in at school. Mr. Saelee and his parents did not have culturally-competent resources to assist Mr. Saelee as he navigated an entirely new country and education system.

When other children bullied Mr. Saelee, no one came to his rescue. Mr. Saelee also took on the responsibility of protecting his younger siblings from violence in their neighborhood; consequently, his younger siblings viewed him as their protector and mentor. Whenever anyone

picked on his younger siblings, Mr. Saelee would tell them to leave them alone. When Mr. Saelee started high school, he was jumped and beaten up in front of his parents at the grocery store. Both Mr. Saelee and his parents were powerless to do anything about it. After this incident, Mr. Saelee felt constantly fearful, vulnerable, and unsafe. He began to look for protection from other kids in the neighborhood. When he started getting into trouble, Mr. Saelee's father kicked him out of the house to try to teach him a lesson. At times, Mr. Saelee would sleep in the courtyard of his family's apartment complex. With nowhere else to go, Mr. Saelee turned to his friends for a sense of belonging and security.

While he was an unhoused teenager at the age of 18, Mr. Saelee was convicted of robbery and attempted murder, and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. In prison, Mr. Saelee decided to turn his life around. He was selected to participate in and graduated from Pawsitive Change Program-- a rehabilitative program that fosters compassion, combats recidivism, and prepares incarcerated individuals for productive lives by learning to care for and train dogs. After a vigorous vetting process, based on good behavior and physical tests, Mr. Saelee was also selected for placement at fire camp where he worked extremely long and exhausting hours as a firefighter battling California wildfires on the front lines, cutting brush and creating firelines in 2018 and 2019. The wildfires he battled are much like the wildfires currently devastating the West Coast. This summer, he completed his 25 year sentence, and his youngest sister drove to Pleasant Valley State Prison to pick him up. However, instead of being released, he was transferred to the Fresno ICE Field Office where he was held overnight in a holding cell. The next day, he was transported to Texas, and then to Louisiana where he was booked at Pine Prairie ICE Detention Center in rural Louisiana, where there are over 60 reported cases of COVID-19. Mr. Saelee remains in ICE detention 2,000 miles away from his family in Fresno.

Mr. Saelee's incarceration has had devastating impacts on his family, and they are eager to welcome him home and make up for lost time. Mr. Saelee seeks a pardon from Governor Newsom so that he can remain in the United States with his family and continue to use his many skills for the betterment of his community. *For more info: ["He Fought Wildfires While Imprisoned. California Reported Him To Ice For Deportation"](#) by Sam Levin for The Guardian.*

Ny Nourn Biography

Ny Nourn was born in a refugee camp in Thailand after her mother fled genocide under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. At the age of 5, Ny came to the United States with her mother as a refugee and resettled in San Diego.

Ny's mother married her stepfather after their first few years in San Diego. Her stepfather became a source of instability and domestic violence within her household. Consequently, as a teenager, Ny began escaping into Internet chatrooms. At 17 years old, Ny met a man online who was twice her age and became trapped in an abusive relationship with him. Weeks after Ny



turned 18, her abusive boyfriend killed Ny's boss at her after-school job in a fit of jealousy. The murder went unsolved for three years until Ny escaped the relationship and went to the police. The police arrested Ny and charged her with aiding and abetting the murder. A judge sentenced her to life without the possibility of parole.

Like Ny, upwards of 90% of incarcerated women experience domestic violence or sexual assault before their incarceration. While in prison, Ny became an advocate for incarcerated survivors, completed training to become a certified alcohol and substance abuse counselor, and organized with Survived and Punished. In May 2017, Governor Brown granted Ny parole but, she was arrested by ICE on her release date to be deported to Cambodia. About 10% of the state prison population have ICE holds, and are immediately transferred to ICE upon release. But after many months of advocacy from community groups across California, Ny walked out of ICE detention in November 2017 after 16 years of incarceration.

Currently, Ny still lives in a limbo state without any clear form of immigration status and does not know when she will be deported. Despite the uncertainty, Ny set out to give back to her community. In 2018, she was named the Yuri Kochiyama Fellow at the Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (ALC) working in criminal justice and domestic violence advocacy issues. As a Yuri Kochiyama Fellow, Ny led efforts to pass AB 2845, the Pardon and Commutations Reform Act. In 2019, ALC promoted Ny to the Community Advocate position in the Immigrant Rights Program. Ny continues to work with currently and formerly incarcerated community members, domestic violence survivors, advocates for pro-immigrant legislation and policies, and works with coalitions towards reform of the criminal justice system.

Ny also volunteers with numerous organizations including the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, Survived and Punished, and the Asian Prisoner Support Committee. Since her release, Ny has been honored by the Asian Women's Shelter and the Devata Giving Circle for her activism and community service. Outside of her full-time job, Ny is a student at San Francisco State University and is working towards a Sociology degree.

A pardon is Ny's sole avenue to prevent deportation and restore her immigration status.

16. Sample Graphics

Examples:

- Danny Thongsy pardon campaign: [graphic 1](#), [graphic 2](#)



- Arlene Dugmore commutation campaign: [graphics](#)



- An Thanh Nguyen pardon campaign: [graphic 1](#), [graphic 2](#)



- Wendy Fong commutation campaign: [graphics](#)



- Blue Sky commutation campaign: [graphics](#)



- Kanoa “Rae” Harris-Pendang commutation campaign: [graphics](#)



- Gabby Solano pardon campaign: [graphic 1](#), [other graphics](#)



17. Sample Digital Media Toolkits

Examples:

[#KeepAnHome Digital Toolkit](#) (pardon campaign) - *See following page*

[#FreeBlueSky Digital Toolkit](#) (medical reprieve campaign) – *See following pages*

[#ClemencyNow Action Toolkit](#) (commutation campaigns)

[#Stand4Danny Social Media Toolkit](#) (pardon campaign)

[#FreeGabby Digital Toolkit](#) (pardon campaign)

SHARE THE TOOLKIT & #KEEPANHOME: bit.ly/keepanhometoolkit

Join VietRISE, An, An's family, and community advocates to prevent An's deportation to Viet Nam. An is a caretaker for his family, sisters, niece, and elderly mother, and would have no family or support system at all in Viet Nam if ICE deports him.

We are calling on Governor Newsom to stop ICE from deporting An by granting An a pardon, so he can remain with his family, community, and loved ones. Join us in helping #KeepAnHome!

What can you do?

1. **URGENT:** [Send a Support Letter for An to Governor Newsom](#)
2. [Call Governor Newsom](#)
3. [Sign and Share the Petition](#)
4. [Tweet at Governor Newsom and ask him to grant An a pardon now!](#)
5. [Read An Nguyen's bio](#) and [share graphics](#)

If your organization can write a support letter addressed to Governor Newsom to pardon An, please email Allison Vo at allison@vietrise.org.

#KeepAnHome #PardonAn #StopICETransfers #BảoVệNgườiTịNạn

Target: Governor Gavin Newsom



URGENT: Send a Support Letter for An to Governor Newsom through the Portal

1. Go to the Office of Governor Newsom website: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>
2. Purpose of Communication: "Have Comment"
3. Subject: "Clemency - Pardons"
4. Position: "Pro"

Use the sample template letter at the petition: bit.ly/keepanhome. Make sure to add a personal touch to prevent the portal from filtering out duplicate messages.

Call Script to Gov. Gavin Newsom: Call: 916-445-2841

"My name is ___ and I represent ___ (org or city where you live). I'm calling to urge Governor Newsom to pardon An Thanh Nguyen. An served over 20 years in prison for mistakes he made as a youth. While there, he worked hard to transform himself. As soon as he was released from prison, instead of being home with family, An was transferred to ICE detention.

After finally being released in November and re-released in April from ICE detention, An has provided support to his family, found work, and stayed committed to his rehabilitation. An should not be punished again by being deported and he should not be separated from his family. I urge Governor Newsom to keep families together, stop another inhumane deportation, and Pardon An."

Sign and Share the Community Petition + Submit Support Letter to Keep An Home

Help us share An's story and urge Governor Newsom to prevent An's deportation by granting him a pardon. Sign and share the petition here: bit.ly/keepanhome



Sample Tweets to Governor Newsom @GavinNewsom

1. An Nguyen immigrated as a child refugee from Vietnam to the US, where he faced poverty, bullying, and an education system that failed him, leading to a crime he served over 20 yrs for. He now faces deportation to the country his family fled. @GavinNewsom protect refugees and #PardonAn
2. After serving over 20 years in prison, An Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee, has worked to build a good life for himself and his family. Now, ICE threatens to take that all away from them again by deporting An. @GovNewsom #PardonAn and keep families together!
3. .@GavinNewsom, after being released from prison & ICE, An Nguyen has focused on taking care of his elderly mother, finding a stable job, & following all his parole requirements. An should remain here with his family. We urge you to #PardonAn & prevent his deportation!
4. An Nguyen, a formerly incarcerated Vietnamese refugee, lives every day in fear of ICE detention and deportation. As someone with asthma, detention in ICE facilities, evidenced to be COVID "tinderboxes," puts An's health in danger. @GavinNewsom #PardonAn and stop his deportation now!

5. .@GavinNewsom, An Nguyen's story is like many criminalized immigrants and refugees who flee homes torn apart by war and imperialism only to come to the US to be marginalized and funneled into an unjust prison system. Deportation is only continuing the violence. #PardonAn
6. An Nguyen was transferred to ICE after serving over 20 yrs in prison. Shortly after, ICE released An on supervision & he was able to rebuild his life, working & supporting his family. ICE then re-detained An then released him. This is a cycle of cruelty! @GavinNewsom #PardonAn.
7. Criminalized refugees and immigrants like An Nguyen face the double-jeopardy of incarceration and deportation, often for crimes of survival that are caused by the traumas of poverty, war, racism, and displacement. @GavinNewsom act against the deportation machine and #PardonAn
8. .@GavinNewsom An Nguyen is a formerly incarcerated Vietnamese refugee who experienced his family's home country torn apart by war. The US prison system and deportation machine only continue to fragment families and marginalized communities. #PardonAn and keep families together!
9. When ICE re-detained An at the Adelanto detention facility, ICE put An's very life in danger. Due to An's severe asthma, he is medically vulnerable to serious illness or death if he contracts COVID-19 and in Adelanto he was placed in highly unsafe conditions--conditions that ultimately resulted in the facility's current COVID outbreak. @GavinNewsom act against the deportation machine and #PardonAn.
10. Like many other Southeast Asian refugees with criminal convictions, An Nguyen was originally transferred from the California prison system to ICE upon the completion of his prison sentence. By transferring immigrants like An to ICE, the California prison system continues to flout public health guidelines and endanger the lives of vulnerable immigrants during this unprecedented health crisis. @GavinNewsom act against the deportation machine and #PardonAn

An Nguyen's Biography

#KEEPANHOME BACKGROUND:

An Nguyen is a Vietnamese refugee who came to the United States as a child in 1990 to be reunited with his family, who migrated to the U.S. five years before him. As a youth, An's family struggled with poverty and adjusting to life in a new country. Facing poverty, racism and bullying as a youth, he ultimately made a mistake that resulted in a series of robberies. An served over 20 years in prison for

the robberies, and while there he chose to turn his life around. He participated in multiple self-help programs to better understand and take responsibility for the consequences of his actions, worked multiple jobs and enrolled in job skills training, and cared for his family emotionally by calling and writing to them.

In October 2019, An completed his prison sentence. However, instead of being released to his family, An was transferred to ICE custody for deportation proceedings as soon as he was released. A month later, an immigration judge ordered An to be deported despite completing his prison sentence. Because ICE was unable to effectuate his deportation at this time, An was released shortly after.

In March 2020, An's life was thrown into chaos once again when ICE detained him in the Adelanto Detention Facility. He, his family, and attorneys were able to fight for his release from detention through a habeas petition and because An's health conditions made him medically vulnerable to severe illness or death from COVID-19. Since his release, An, his community, and family have fought hard for him to be able to stay home. He served his prison sentence and worked on his rehabilitation only to be transferred immediately to ICE, re-detained, and then released again. Despite this fight, today, An could be subject to deportation to Viet Nam at any time.

An has a community and large family of twenty-nine members--including his siblings, son, nieces and nephews, and elderly mother he cares for who--need him here at home. That is why we are fighting to #KeepAnHome and urging Governor Newsom to grant An a pardon and protect him from deportation to Viet Nam, a country he no longer knows and where he has no family ties.

Graphics and Photos: Download & Share!

1. Petition graphic:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/14N76n_J-pf3hKT-nLa2xxvnot-eSV2uQ/view?usp=sharing



2. Call-in script:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aINwFYrac1f33qKlByB4L5-LEFg7-JHx/view?usp=drivesdk>

CALL NOW! (916) 445-2841
CA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

**URGENT: STOP ICE FROM DEPORTING AN
TELL GOV. NEWSOM TO PARDON AN NGUYEN**

**No more deportations!
Sample call script:**

*My name is ____ and I represent ____ (org or city where you live).
I'm calling to urge Governor Newsom to pardon An Thanh Nguyen. An served over 20 years in prison for mistakes he made as a youth. While there, he worked hard to transform himself. As soon as he was released from prison, instead of being home with family, An was transferred to ICE detention.

After finally being released in November and re-released in April from ICE detention, An has provided support to his family, found work, and stayed committed to his rehabilitation. An should not be punished again by being deported and he should not be separated from his family. I urge Governor Newsom to keep families together, stop another inhumane deportation, and Pardon An.

#KeepAnHome
bit.ly/keepanhome

Bring Blue-Sky Home

Day of Action Toolkit



[Rickie Blue-Sky](#) is a 75-year-old Native American transgender man of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe who has been incarcerated for over 37 years. As deadly COVID-19 outbreaks continue in California prisons, Blue-Sky is at dangerously high medical risk. Blue-Sky is a beloved community member and we need him home!

Please join us in urging Governor Newsom to grant immediate release for Rickie Blue-Sky through a medical reprieve.

Please note: While we as Blue-Sky's friends and family appreciate the rage & love that so many of his supporters feel, we ask that you please affirm your support for his release while steering clear of critiquing the system.

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Go to: bit.ly/ContactNewsom
- Select: "Have a comment"
- Insert: Your first name, last name, and email address
- Select subject: "Clemency — Commutation of Sentence"
- Select position: "Pro"
- Write your message: Sample script on next page

Sample script:

Dear Governor Newsom,

My name is [Insert Name]. I urge you to immediately release Rickie Blue-Sky

(W20937) through a medical reprieve. Blue-Sky is a Native American transgender man who has been incarcerated for over 37 years. He is a beloved community member and mentor.

[If you know Blue-Sky, describe how you know him. Either way, why is this important to you.]

Currently, the COVID-19 pandemic is devastating Californians everywhere, including people in our state prison system. Blue-Sky is a 75-year-old man who is at high risk for death by COVID-19. Please use your power to immediately release Blue-Sky to his loving family and community.

Sincerely,
[Name]

TWITTER

Sample tweets below

[Graphics available for download here](#)

Please take action: Rickie Blue-Sky, a Native American trans man and elder who's been incarcerated for 37+ years, is at great risk of #COVID19. Urge Gov @GavinNewsom to [#FreeBlueSky](#) - submit your public comment today: bit.ly/ReleaseBlueSky [#ClemencyNow](#)

ACTION ALERT: Rickie Blue-Sky is a 75-yr-old Native American trans man, elder & mentor, who's at great risk of #COVID19 due to his age and chronic health issues. As COVID-19 rages on in CA prisons, urge Gov @GavinNewsom to Bring Blue-Sky Home: bit.ly/ReleaseBlueSky [#FreeBlueSky](#)

"Blue-Sky is everyone's mentor. He has shouldered much weight of our community. He has led the way and cleared paths leaving a legacy of integrity, love, peace, no judgments. Please send him home. -Kanoa, incarcerated at CCWF [#FreeBlueSky](#)

"Blue-Sky helped save my life from addiction. He led me by love, consistency and honesty to recovery. He will do the same in his home community and save more lives." -Mychal, incarcerated at CCWF [#FreeBlueSky](#) [#ClemencyNow](#)

INSTAGRAM

Sample post below

[Slides available for download here](#)

Take action to Bring Blue-Sky Home: Rickie Blue-Sky, a Native American trans man and elder who's been incarcerated for 37+ years, is at great risk of #COVID19 in California prison. Urge Governor @GavinNewsom to release Blue-Sky now to his loving family and community. Please submit your public comment today to #FreeBlueSky: bit.ly/ReleaseBlueSky

FACEBOOK

Sample post below

[Graphics available for download here](#)

Day of Action to Bring Blue-Sky Home: Rickie Blue-Sky, a Native American trans man and elder who's been incarcerated for 37+ years, is at great risk of #COVID19 in California prison. Urge Governor @GavinNewsom to release Blue-Sky now to his loving family and community. Please submit your public comment today to #FreeBlueSky: bit.ly/ReleaseBlueSky

GRAPHICS

Artwork by @micahbazant

Facebook & Instagram Size:



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