

SEND AN EMAIL!

1) EMAIL TO: AnthonyDiMartino@Asm.CA.Gov

2) SUBJECT LINE: AB 931 (Weber) — Support

SAMPLE EMAIL

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

I am writing to offer my support for AB 931, which will protect community members by allowing law enforcement to use deadly force only when it is necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury.

[OPTIONAL: INSERT BRIEF STATEMENT ABOUT WHY YOU SUPPORT AB 931 AND/OR HOW IT WILL IMPACT YOU. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT, PLEASE DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH.]

California needs to change the rules for when police can use deadly force. Under current law, police can use deadly force whenever an “objectively reasonable” officer would have done so under the same circumstances, whether or not there was an immediate threat to life or bodily security, or whether there were available alternatives. As a result, current law authorizes police to kill when it is not necessary, widening the rift between grieving communities – particularly communities of color – and the law enforcement agencies that are supposed to protect them.

In line with recommendations from policing and legal experts, AB 931 changes California law so that police can use deadly force only when necessary, and requires them to use tactics to de-escalate a situation or use alternatives to deadly force where reasonable. Changing this standard will mean that officers will be trained to use deadly force less often, and it will be easier to hold officers accountable when they shoot and kill unnecessarily.

The harm from police killings extends beyond the lives lost and impacts all involved. Police shootings cause extraordinary trauma for the families and communities impacted – trauma that disproportionately impacts communities of color. Studies show that police departments with more restrictive use of force policies not only have fewer shootings by police, but also lower rates of assaults against officers and lower crime rates. One of the Legislature’s primary goals is to protect public safety, and safeguarding Californians’ right to be safe from unnecessary deaths by law enforcement is a critical step in that direction. I strongly support the enactment of AB 931.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Typed Name]

MAKE A CALL!



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