



SHERIFF'S EMPLOYEES'
BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

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REPRESENTING PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Friday, June 5, 2020

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2006
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SCA 6 (Dodd) – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Portantino:

This letter is sent on behalf of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association in opposition to SCA 6 (Dodd), a measure that would severely impact our tribal government partners by infringing on their constitutional gaming rights and subsequently their ability to provide for their tribes and surrounding communities.

Like tribal governments who voluntarily closed their gaming facilities to limit the spread of COVID-19, we too are reeling from the unprecedented toll this pandemic has had on our budget. We recognize that the state is also in a similar position. While these are trying times, this is not the time to abandon our principles by repealing tribal gaming rights and rewarding players that have a history of not following the law.

In recent years, card rooms and their owners have been penalized more than \$30 million by the federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) for failure to comply with anti-money laundering laws, and for hiding profits to avoid taxes and contributing to gambling addiction programs. Money laundering laws are significant and exist to protect against terrorist activities, human trafficking, drug dealing, and other crimes. As a law enforcement agency, we simply cannot support a measure that validates such conduct.

The development of tribal gaming has been one of the most important drivers of economic growth in San Bernardino County. In the last two decades, tribal casinos throughout the county have made substantial investments in their facilities and surrounding communities. Tribes have long been important partners with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association to strengthen our shared communities, as reflected in the promise of Proposition 1A (2000) that authorized Indian gaming in California.

We are proud to stand with our tribal government partners in opposing SCA 6. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grant Ward
President