

California State Senate

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September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of SB 310 (Skinner)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Senate Bill 310, which allows individuals with felony convictions to serve on juries if they are not currently incarcerated in any prison or jail, on active supervision, or required to register as a sex offender on parole.

The idea of allowing formerly convicted felons to serve on juries is potentially workable depending upon their offense and the amount of time the convicted individual has remained crime free in the community. However, this bill only provides a few, very narrow limitations on which felons may serve on juries. Thus individuals with recent convictions for highly troubling acts, including those involving dishonesty, moral turpitude and violent crimes would all be eligible. This will inevitably cause the court, prosecutors and defense counsel to have significant voir dire issues as they attempt to ensure fair and balanced trials.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove", written in a cursive style.

Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader