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June 11, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3042 (Nguyen), Extend DNA Identification Fund – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wahab,

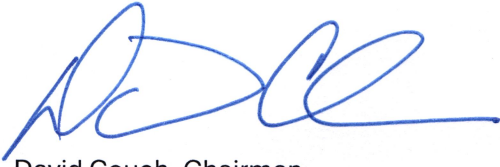
I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for AB 3042 (Nguyen), which would extend the sunset date from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030 to collect and deposit funds into the DNA Identification Fund pursuant to the DNA Fingerprint, Unsolved Crime and Innocence Protection Act (Proposition 69 (2004)).

According to the California Department of Justice (DOJ), Proposition 69 was passed by voters in November 2004 to support and expand the use of DNA technology to solve crimes. Among its provisions, Prop. 69 directs funding from criminal fines to be allocated between state and local crime labs to support expanded efforts to collect and test DNA samples. In the two decades since Prop. 69 was passed, DOJ has received more than \$74 million from the fund and has recorded over 106,000 DNA hits to unsolved crimes. By contrast, the state's underfunded DNA database program recorded only 1,108 hits from 1984 to 2004.

While the numbers illustrate the benefit of these funds on public safety, Prop. 69 included a sunset date of 20 years that is set to expire this year. Fortunately, Prop. 69 included a provision allowing the legislature to amend it so long as the changes are consistent with the purposes of the proposition. By extending the sunset date, AB 3042 will provide a steady source of revenue from an already established criminal fine – completely separate and apart from the General Fund – that will allow crime labs to continue this critical investigative work. This funding has been instrumental in the success of the state's DNA database program, bringing closure to thousands of victims and their families.

AB 3042 will help the DOJ and local crime labs continue to bring justice to victims and to exonerate the innocent. For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support this legislation and respectfully requests that you vote **YES on AB 3042**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DC', with a stylized, flowing script.

David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Members, Senate Public Safety Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County District Attorney
Kern County Sheriff's Office
Kern County Probation Department
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange