

Submitter: Donna Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB517

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE SB 517 and it's twin SB 325.

While I do support re-integration of convicts into their new chapter of life, I strongly believe that the current bills would place undue burdens on professional and occupational licensing boards, commissions, or agencies to do their due diligence.

I am very concerned about the definition of "qualifying juvenile adjudication" which includes some serious crimes such as Rape in the first degree, Sodomy in the first degree, Sexual abuse in the first degree, or even Murder in the first degree and Murder in the 2nd degree. These are incredibly serious crimes and Legislators should read carefully in determining whether it is advisable and appropriate to embark on an expansion of privileges while applying for an occupational or professional license.

The current law seems to provide enough flexibility in licensing entities to properly vet their applicants and licenses and we should not be trying to dilute this important obligation to carefully screen and evaluate workforce in certain sensitive fields which deserve special trust and care in order to protect the consumer or client.