

Submitter: Lindsay Antonsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

I am writing to strongly oppose SB 238, which provides a blank check for law enforcement agencies to begin deploying unlimited quantities of drones, without a court warrant, in a wide variety of situations.

As ACLU states, of highest concern is the ability for these bills to allow police and sheriffs — not the courts

— to make decisions about the use of these drones.

That means law enforcement could use drones to monitor protests, gatherings, or everyday life in our communities with no judicial accountability.

History has made it abundantly clear: unchecked surveillance powers are often used to monitor, intimidate, and silence dissent — particularly targeting protestors, activists, and communities that are already over-policed. Also, if drone data is shared with federal authorities, it could be used by the Trump administration to identify and track the people he is increasingly targeting and harassing, including immigrants and refugees, people seeking reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare, and people speaking out against the fascism of the Trump administration and billionaires. The intended use of drones is unnecessary and serves no purpose to improve our communities or increase safety. It will only increase surveillance, invoke fear, and further divide people against law enforcement and local and federal government. Please work to instead support bills that actually serve a purpose to help people and improve efficiency in the systems that serve our communities.