

Submitter:

Andrea Still

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB238

I 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. Our system of law is supposed to have checks and balances in place, to prevent the misuse of authority. This bill is a way to circumvent those checks and balances, and gives too much power to individuals. 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 the 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. If drone data is shared with federal authorities, it could be used by the current administration to identify and track immigrants, refugees and people seeking reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare.