



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 29, 2021
Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 82
Reducing certain robbery crimes to a
Misdemeanor

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today her support of the California District Attorneys Association in their call to withdraw Senate Bill 82 which is currently pending in the California State Legislature.

State Senator Nancy Sinner has authored Senate Bill 82 which calls for reducing violent felony crimes such as strong-arm robbery from a person, which is currently a felony punishable by incarceration in state prison for two, three or five years, to merely a misdemeanor petty theft punishable by up to one year in the local jail.

On Monday afternoon, July 26, 2021, former U.S. U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, age 80, was assaulted and robbed in Alameda County. She was physical attacked by a perpetrator who shoved her from behind and took her cell phone This crime occurred in broad daylight in Oakland's Jack London District, a popular tourist destination that also happens to be in the California Senate District of Senator Nancy Skinner. The same Nancy Skinner who proposed declaring such horrific crimes misdemeanor petty thefts under SB 82.

This was a violent, strong-arm robbery of an 80-year-old grandmother. Fortunately, she was not seriously injured. While Senator Boxer is a prominent and well-known household name due to her lengthy tenure in Congress, there are countless other lesser-known elderly victims who have recently endured similar attacks. All these victims were subjected to a violent crime. It would be a terrible insult to minimize their trauma by calling it misdemeanor petty theft—a low-level offense that is also eligible for diversion without serving any time in jail at all.

District Attorney Fladager joins the California District Attorneys Association in calling on Senator Skinner to withdraw SB 82 as criminal justice reform going too far. It is not “reform” in any sense of the word and only encourages victimization of the aged and infirm in our communities who are already helpless to defend themselves. Please contact your local State Senator and ask them to oppose Senate Bill 82.

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The California District Attorneys Association is a statewide training and advocacy organization representing elected district attorneys, city attorneys with criminal divisions, and more than 3,500 prosecutors.

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