

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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May 23, 2023

Re: Letter of Opposition AB 742 (Jackson)

Assembly Member Chris Holden
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
916-319-2081

RE: OPPOSE – AB 742 (Jackson)

Honorable Chair Holden,

On behalf of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 742 (Jackson) proposing to prohibit the use of canines by peace officers for arrest and apprehension, or in any circumstances to bite a person, but permits the use of canines for search and rescue, explosives detection, and narcotics detection. Should AB 742 be passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor, law enforcement officers in rural communities would be stripped of a critical tool that ensures public safety.

Nevada County is a rural county with a large geographical area of responsibility where our officers are required to respond in remote areas. Canines are a critical tool for rural counties, especially in large areas of responsibility with few officers, like Nevada County. Trained canines are considered a less lethal option for a use of force situation. Typically, the presence of a canine alone assists with the de-escalation of a high stress incident. Canines provide added safety for our officers when backup may not be available for many miles away. The use of canines assists in the reduction of officer injury overtime. Combative persons resisting arrest cause more deputy injuries than other types of risks; the presence of a canine unit more often deters an altercation with deputies and thereby promotes a peaceful resolution. Finally, law enforcement canine programs play an important role in officer recruitment strategies and increase morale within the department.

If AB 742 become law, our local rural law enforcement agencies will lose a critical tool and will places law enforcement personnel in increased risk.

Sincerely,

Ed Scofield
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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CC: Honorable Senator Brian Dahle
Honorable Senator Alvarado-Gil
California State Association of Counties
Shaw Yoder Antwih, Schmelzer & Lange

Honorable Assembly Member Megan Dahle
Rural County Representatives of California