

London & Gonzalez Advocacy

1015 K Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 19, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 672 (Rubio)/**OPPOSE**

Dear Sen. Caballero:

This letter is for the purpose of expressing opposition to SB 672 (Rubio) on behalf of Crime Victims United (CVU). We urge you and your committee to vote “no” when the bill comes up for review during the Appropriations Committee process.

CVU is one of the preeminent crime victim organizations in California and across the country. Since its founding in 1990, the organization’s mission is to strengthen public safety, promote balance in the criminal justice system, and to protect the rights of victims and their families.

SB 672 undermines sentencing for a select group of murderers convicted of committing the most heinous and serious crimes defined in California law. It expands the eligibility for release on parole for those convicted of committing murder with “special circumstances” if they committed their offense while under the age of 26. California's Penal Code section 190.2 outlines various “special circumstances” that can elevate a murder to a capital crime. These circumstances, when found true by a jury, make the defendant eligible for the death penalty or life without parole (LWOP).

Under current law, examples of “special circumstances” include:

- **Witness/Prosecutor/Judge Elimination:** Murders committed to eliminate a witness to a crime, a judge, or a prosecutor.
- **Sexual Offenses/Torture:** Murders involving rape/s torture of the victim.
- **Hate Crimes:** Murders motivated by the victim's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality.
- **Murder While Committing Other Felonies:** Murders committed during the commission of certain felonies like robbery, kidnapping, or arson.
- **Lying in Wait:** Murders committed by lying in wait, meaning the attacker waited for the victim and made a surprise attack.
- **Peace Officers:** Murders of peace officers, federal law enforcement officers, or firefighters.
- **Prior Murder Conviction:** Murders committed by someone with a prior murder conviction.
- **Destructive Devices:** Murders committed with a bomb or destructive device.
- **Preventing Arrest/Escape:** Murders committed to prevent arrest or escape.
- **Poison:** Murders committed with poison.
- **Elected Official:** Murder of an elected official in retaliation or to prevent performance of duties.

The provisions of SB 672 fail to recognize that LWOP sentences are reserved for the most serious murders in the criminal justice system and are consistent with the will of the voters. By expanding the age of eligibility for youthful parole to include inmates sentenced to LWOP solely because they committed their crimes as young adults, SB 672 threatens public safety and ignores the rights of crime victims and their families, as well as the efforts of local law enforcement, district attorneys, jurors, and the legal processes and resources that resulted in their conviction and sentence.

SB 672 contradicts established standards for justice, victim rights, and Californians' public safety. For these reasons, Crime Victims United stands in firm opposition to SB 672 and asks for a "NO" VOTE ON SB 672.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact our lobbyist, Carl London of London & Gonzalez Advocacy, at (916) 952-5130.

Sincerely,



Topo Padilla, President

CC: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Susan Rubio, CA State Senate
Eric Csizmar, Senate Republican Caucus
Eric Dang, Sen. Pres. Pro Tempore Policy Unit