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# California State Senate

SENATOR

**SCOTT WILK**

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION



September 15, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 1238 (Ting)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 1238, which eliminates the requirement that pedestrians obey traffic signals whenever they believe the risk of a collision is reasonably low.

While the supporters focus entirely on the equity concerns surrounding enforcement of jaywalking laws, the bill also legalizes other actions completely unrelated to jaywalking. In particular, it allows pedestrians to entirely ignore traffic signals or walk in the middle of the road. Traffic signals exist for a reason. Because they halt traffic, these signals are only designed to be installed at locations where there is an absolute need, and their installation is governed by a set of uniform standards.

The inevitable outcome of this bill will be confusion for motorists. Allowing certain road users to ignore clear rules of the road based solely on personal judgement will complicate enforcement, create uncertainty, and potentially increase accident risk.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto. If you have any questions about my request, please call my office at 916-651-4021 or email me at [Senator.Wilk@senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Wilk@senate.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wilk".

Scott Wilk  
Senate Republican Leader