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City Manager

CITY of CHINO

January 22, 2025

Senator Susan Rubio
California State Senator
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 19: Threats at a School or Place of Worship

Dear Senator Rubio,

I am writing to you as the Chief of Police for the City of Chino to express my strong support for Senate Bill 19, authored by you and co-authored by Senator Niello. This crucial piece of legislation addresses threats that involve schools and places of worship.

The bill addresses threats made by any means, including electronic communications, that cause a reasonable fear for safety. Notably, the requirement of identifying a specific victim is not an element under this bill.

SB 19 proposes specific sentencing guidelines and considers the age of the perpetrator. This bill aims to equip law enforcement with stronger legal tools to effectively prosecute such threats, ensuring they are taken seriously and mitigated promptly.

The Chino Valley has experienced multiple threat-related incidents on school grounds in the past year, with the most recent occurring on January 15, 2025. On that day, a male subject called Chino Dispatch, claiming he was at one of the high schools in the City of Chino. The caller stated his intent to kill 20 students and commit suicide by cop. This incident required a substantial deployment of resources as officers worked diligently to clear the school and address the potential threat.

SB 19 would empower law enforcement and the District Attorney's office to prosecute such suspects, even when a specific victim is not named in the threat. This enhanced ability to hold perpetrators accountable would be a critical step in safeguarding our communities and preventing future incidents.

As a law enforcement professional committed to maintaining public safety, I believe the enactment of SB 19 is a necessary step toward strengthening our ability to protect our schools and places of worship within our communities. This bill aligns with our ongoing efforts to create safer neighborhoods and promote a secure environment for all Californians.

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By working together, we can take meaningful action to address the challenges posed by threats in schools and places of worship.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to the positive impact that SB 19 will have on the safety and well-being of our communities. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (909) 334-3093 or via email at Kmensen@chinopd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kmensen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department