



a letter to our State legislators

SAMPLE TEMPLATE

Name

Address

City, State

Dear

I am writing today to ask you for your help in taking back our community. During the past several years, State legislative changes have made fundamental alterations to the fabric of California's criminal justice system. And many of those changes have been needed and necessary, as not all crimes should be punished with jail sentences.

However, the changes that have been enacted by AB 109, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57 have created a situation where violent and career criminals are or will be serving little to no prison time, which has had the effect of eroding the safety of our communities.

In fact, in California today, our criminal justice system considers the following crimes as "non-violent," and offenders convicted of violating such laws are able to avoid appropriate prison sentences:

- Domestic violence
- Rape
- Corporal injury to a child
- Hate crime causing physical injury
- Assault with a deadly weapon

In addition, the State legislative changes that have occurred during the past several years has created an environment in California where most property crimes are now considered misdemeanors. Furthermore, court imposed prison sentences for serious violent crimes can now be uniformly reduced by the State, thereby allowing career criminals the opportunity to avoid serving an adequate amount of jail time.

The negative impacts from these State legislative changes has been far reaching, and all throughout California, crime rates and the number of victims are skyrocketing.

- At a local level, the City of Sierra Madre experienced a 4% increase in violent and property crimes in 2016 when compared with 2015 levels. **This increase means that we had 50 more victims in Sierra Madre than in the prior year.**
- Former California Attorney General Kamala Harris reported that the State experienced a 10% increase in violent crime and an 8% increase in property crimes in 2015 when compared with 2014 levels. **This increase means that we had 92,309 more victims in California than in the prior year.**

I implore you to introduce and support State legislation that would fix the problems in our current criminal justice system. Only the State can make the criminal justice system changes needed to take back our community from violent and career criminals that are eroding the safety of our communities every single day.

Best regards,

