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California State Senate

SENATOR
JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



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BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Requested Veto of AB 1008 (McCarty)

Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to respectfully request that you veto AB 1008 (McCarty) that would prevent potential employers from inquiring about past criminal convictions until after an offer of employment has been made.

Even though this bill will cost the state over \$2 million a year to administer, the overarching policy ramifications of this legislation are tremendously troubling.

As a practicing pharmacist, I am held professionally and personally responsible for the actions of my employees. If I am prevented from inquiring about a potential employee's criminal history (e.g., have they been convicted of a drug offense involving the sale of illegal drugs?), how can I meet my obligation to operate a safe pharmacy?

Small businesses in California have a difficult enough time staying alive. This bill only adds to their burdens and does more harm than good. Why should a small business owner be prevented from asking about criminal history when other employees in the business will have to interact with the applicant? Should someone convicted of domestic violence be allowed to not disclose that conviction when applying for work at a women's shelter? Should a convicted burglar be allowed to shield his or her past from a company hiring night-time security guards?

For these and many other reasons, I strongly urge you to veto AB 1008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone
State Senator, 28th District