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California State Senate

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



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September 20, 2017

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Senate Bill 310

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 310.

There is a reason that changing one's name while in prison is somewhat onerous. This dates back to 1993. As it turns out, CDCR sponsored the existing statute in 1994 (Assembly Bill 2782 – Boland), which added the provision that prohibits inmates from seeking a name change without CDCR permission.

The reason for this change is particularly clear and troubling. Through identity theft, an incarcerated child molester was able to harass a former victim for decades. This particular inmate, Herbert Bruce Lemont, filed change of address forms, had the family's mail forwarded to him in prison, mailed forged power-of-attorney forms to the IRS and obtained tax returns; fraudulently obtained her credit report; and acquired the Social Security earnings statement for Pride's daughter.

This was all accomplished by changing his name to that of the victim's ex-husband Walter Borovkoff. Only after enduring years of harassment was the victim eventually able to have Del Norte County rescind the name change.

Affected prisoners are already authorized under existing law that allows CDCR to permit a name change when necessary. This bill is unnecessary and dangerous and that is why I am asking you to veto SB 310.

I thank you for your time to read this letter and am available to answer any questions if they arise. I can be contacted at (916) 651-4028.

Sincerely,

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

Jeff Stone
Senator, 28th District