



City of Upland

Mayor's Office

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 627 (Wiener): Face Coverings and Civil Immunity
Notice of Opposition**

Dear Senator Pérez,

On behalf of the City of Upland, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 627 (Wiener). Although the intent of SB 627 is to respond to federal immigration enforcement, this measure has profound impact on California's local law enforcement officers and agencies. SB 627's overly broad prohibitions restricting officers from wearing facial coverings outside of a limited and confusing set of exemptions, creates unnecessary risks for both officers and the communities they serve. Basic protective equipment—helmets, masks, sunglasses—could fall within the prohibition, and officers could even be guilty of a crime if they fail to remove a motorcycle helmet immediately after dismounting. Patrol officers working under the same hazardous conditions as SWAT officers would be prohibited from using the same protective gear. These vague and inconsistent standards invite after-the-fact challenges to officers' split-second decisions. To make matters worse, SB 627 explicitly excludes state law enforcement agencies while applying its restrictions only to local and federal officers, creating an arbitrary and unfair double standard. Compounding this inequity, federal officers are not bound by California law and therefore will not be required to follow these restrictions, leaving only local agencies subject to penalties and liability.

Equally concerning are SB 627's unprecedented changes to peace officer civil immunity. Penal Code §185.5(g) strips officers of long-standing statutory protections if they are alleged to have committed false arrest, false imprisonment, or other claims while wearing a facial covering in violation of the law. Current statutes—including Civil Code §43.55 and Penal Code §§836, 836.5, and 847—provide immunity when officers act in good faith on probable cause, protections essential to effective policing. SB 627 would override decades of law and expose officers to a minimum of \$10,000 in statutory damages for even technical or good-faith violations. Because the bill's provisions apply only to California officers and not federal agents, it will result in costly litigation, inconsistent case law, and a chilling effect on officers forced to second-guess protective measures in dangerous and evolving situations.

For these reasons, the City of Upland strongly urges you to oppose SB 627. Its vague statutory framework, unequal application across agencies, criminalization of protective equipment, and erosion of immunity protections will jeopardize officer safety and weaken public safety across California.

Sincerely,

Bill Velto,
Mayor, City of Upland

Cc: Laura Varela, Regional Public Affairs Manager (Lvarela@calcities.org)
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