



Tomiquia Moss  
[tmoss@allhomeca.org](mailto:tmoss@allhomeca.org)

5/26/2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2136  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 603 (McCarty) SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember McCarty:

On behalf of the Members of All Home, I am writing to express our strong support of AB 603.

AB 603 requires cities, counties, and the CA Highway Patrol to post financial details about police misconduct settlements and judgments on their websites, including how much each settlement cost and how the state and municipalities will pay for each settlement. These settlements result in local jurisdictions paying out significant amounts in taxpayer dollars that could be used to fund afterschool and youth programs or to build new parks, community centers and libraries. Current law allows citizens to file civil suits or claims against police or sheriffs for misconduct or use of force incidents that result in death or serious bodily injury.

State law stipulates officers are not responsible for the economic damages of these lawsuits. Instead, these settlements typically come from the general fund of the city involved, or if the law enforcement agency itself pays, then it is part of a specific line item set aside for settling officer misconduct litigation. That means city budgets allocate funds to their law enforcement agencies with the expectation that they will be financially liable for their wrongdoing, year over year. While taxpayers pay for these settlements, the public will often only hear about these settlements from newspapers. Information about the financial implications of these police misconduct settlements are difficult to find and require Public Records Act (PRA) requests to get details.

Citizens have the right to know how their city, county, and state are spending their hard-earned tax dollars. By requiring municipalities to publicly post financial details of their law enforcement use-of-force settlements, AB 603 provides much needed transparency for taxpayers on where their tax dollars are being spent.

All Home is a Bay Area organization that advances regional solutions to disrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness, reduce racial disparities among people who experience homelessness, and create more economic mobility opportunities for extremely low-income (ELI) people. We work across counties, sectors, and silos to advance coordinated, innovative solutions and build a movement to challenge the status quo that perpetuates homelessness.

This bill aligns with our belief that transparency is imperative when it comes to how local and state governments spend taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Tomiquia Moss*

Tomiquia Moss  
Founder & CEO, All Home

cc: The Honorable Jones Sawyer Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee