



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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Telephone (707) 476-2390 Fax (707) 445-7299

April 27, 2021

Senator Mike McGuire
State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 271 (Wiener) – County Sheriffs Eligibility Requirements

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our respectful opposition to Senate Bill 271 because it would potentially affect the safety and services to the many citizens in Humboldt County.

The exiting law provided that no person is eligible to become a candidate for the office of Sheriff in any county unless, at the time of final filing date for election, they are certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, and or have had a full time, salaried law enforcement background. SB 271 would allow for any person over the age of eighteen to run for the elected position of County Sheriff. There would be no qualifications or experience needed for this critical position.

The Sheriff is the highest level of law enforcement for a county. They not only oversee the entire departments daily operations, but they set the standards for their personnel through their example of professionalism and law enforcement expertise. It is through their experience that they hire, engage, and create the atmosphere that serves and protects the laws of the state and the county. This office cannot be under valued by allowing for unqualified candidates to serve in this capacity.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or other members of our Board to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors