September 1, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 3228 (Bonta)- REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

As the Alameda County District Attorney, I urge you to sign AB 3228. This bill would create a working group to assess and address issues relating to Covid 19 in all detention facilities.

The onset of Covid-19 has created unforeseen challenges in detention centers worldwide. The California Detention Standards and Safety group, as outlined in this bill, is needed in developing a plan for making detention centers safe in the age of Covid 19. It is wise to include such a diverse group of advisors in the group, as this issue impacts every aspect of the justice system. It should be addressed in a methodical and thoughtful manner.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, I have been deeply involved in the process of reviewing and recommending release of individuals who were being detained. Ultimately, over 1,000 have been released with the goal of preventing a devastating outbreak. I know better than anyone the challenges that this pandemic has introduced to our detention centers.

For these reasons, I urge you to sign AB 3228. If you have any questions about this position, please contact, Michelle Thomas Shaw, Policy Director, at michelle.thomasshaw@acgov.org.

Sincerely,

NANCY E. O’MALLEY  
District Attorney

Cc: Assemblymember Rob Bonta