

# Keep California Safe

A Project of the California Public Safety Partnership Issues Committee

## **Statement by Assemblyman Jim Cooper in Response to Social Media Attacks on Our Retail Supporters**

Our nation was founded on the belief that we could have respectful political debate as a means to address important public policy issues.

Recent postings on social media far exceed the line of respectful political debate and attempt to intimidate and bully good California companies from participating in the political process by making outrageous accusations against them.

One can disagree with the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act. That is every person's right. But accusing a company that supports this initiative as being in favor of oppressive laws that take us back decades is far beyond any political discourse.

No leader at any company wakes up in the morning and thinks, "I would love nothing more than reducing my company's earnings by donating to a political campaign." For so many of California's grocers and retailers to take money off their bottom-line and give to this campaign means they know that recent criminal justice reforms have unintentionally led to a sharp increase in shoplifting and property crimes at their establishments, and reasonable reform as embodied in the Keeping California Safe Act is needed.

Nothing in this proposal would lead to a new wave of prison building or mass incarceration. In fact, if there has been no increase in property crimes, and if truly violent offenders are not being released early from prison, as opponents of our reform argue, then our act will have no effect. They can't have it both ways.

But if you believe that repeat serial thieves who flaunt recent reforms deserve to be held accountable; if you believe that greater access to DNA evidence will help solve rapes and murders, as we saw yesterday with finally capturing the East Area Rapist; and if you believe convicted perpetrators of domestic violence, rape of an unconscious person, sex trafficking of a child, and drive by shootings should be considered violent and ineligible for early release from prison; then you will support the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act, and should thank the many California law enforcement associations, community leaders, and businesses who are helping us get these reasonable reforms on the ballot.

Paid for by Keep California Safe, a Project of the California Public Safety Partnership Issues Committee  
Committee major funding from  
Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs  
Los Angeles Police Protective League  
Protecting California Cooper Ballot Measure Committee  
Funding details at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)