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California State Senate

SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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HOUSING
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August 27, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O St., Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Signing Request – Senate Bill 268

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you sign Senate Bill 268.

This bill, if implemented, will establish that the rape of an intoxicated person where the defendant drugged the victim with intent to commit sexual assault, is a violent felony.

In 2023 in California, 23 people were incarcerated whose primary offense was the rape of an intoxicated person. Currently, spousal rape and rape under other circumstances are treated as more severe than the cases where the offender drugged the victim before committing the rape. It is baffling that spousal rape and rape under other circumstances would be treated as more severe than rape where the victim is prevented from resisting by an intoxicating or anesthetic substance.

This measure corrects the oversight and provides further consistency in current law. SB-268 aligns current law by ensuring all forms of rape are a violent felony.

Thank you for your consideration, I respectfully request that you sign SB-268. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate, 32nd District