

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting  
2012 Chapala Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

May 1, 2024

Senator Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1081 (Archuleta) - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Caballero and Members of the Committee,

The Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (SBFM), Quakers, opposes SB-1081 and we urge the Appropriations Committee to leave SB-1081 in the suspense file, as it will add unneeded expenses to the state budget and further erode the privacy of California citizens.

We believe that SB-1081 would be a flawed policy, for the multitude of reasons expressed to the Senate Transportation Committee by a wide range of organizations, including the SBFM, and many individuals. We ask the Appropriations Committee, with its responsibility for the fiscal health of our state, to review those objections when it considers SB-1081.

The Santa Barbara Friends Meeting believes that local and state public agencies should not provide information or assistance to the military for draft registration or recruitment purposes. Many of our youth, as well as those of other religious organizations, conscientiously object to participation in any and all wars. This bill would force them to violate their conscience or check a box that could put them in legal jeopardy when getting a driver's license.

SB-1081 would be costly because it would require resources for the complicated process of verifying who is required to register for the SSS and to respond to litigation around its many legal defects. This would divert resources from California's General Fund needed for other state priorities and programs to meet human needs throughout the state.

SB-1081 has serious legal defects, and could lead to prolonged, costly, and disruptive litigation. Although other states have enacted similar laws, those laws have not been tested against California's higher standards of legal protection for privacy, LGBTQ+ rights, and immigrants' rights.

Even if Federal start-up funding is made available to the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) at the onset, the ongoing expenses of this program would come from the

state's General Fund. The California Constitution prohibits the use of DMV funds for unrelated purposes, as, in this case, automatic registration for a military draft with the Selective Service System (SSS) in driver's license applications.

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office 2024-25 budget overview, "Under the administration's projections, the state faces operating deficits of \$37 billion in 2025-26, \$30 billion in 2026-27, and \$28 billion in 2027-28." and "Due to the large decline in General Fund revenues, the constitutionally required General Fund spending level is down \$15.2 billion...The Governor proposes to reduce school and community college spending to this lower level." Adding a new expense item to the state's budget is not fiscally responsible or appropriate.

Whether an individual is required to register with the SSS depends on their citizenship, immigration status, type of visa (if any) with which they entered the U.S., and sex as assigned at birth. Neither the DMV nor the SSS currently has records of any of this information.

California requires the DMV to issue driver's licenses without regard for immigration status, and to allow applicants to self-select the gender identifier (M, F, or X) on their driver's license. Individuals can also self-select the gender marker on U.S. passports and Social Security records. None of these records can be used to identify sex as assigned at birth.

The only way for the DMV or the SSS to identify who is required to register with the SSS would be to question every draft-age applicant for a driver's license about their citizenship, immigration and visa status, and sex as assigned at birth. These questions are inappropriate for the DMV and unrelated to road safety. Collecting and recording this information comes at a cost.

On October 9, 2015, then Governor Jerry Brown vetoed a similar bill, AB-82, stating, "In view of the relatively easy ways that young men can register for the U.S. Selective Service System such as registering online, at their high school, or at a local post office, I don't think this new responsibility for the Department of Motor Vehicles is advisable."

We urge the Appropriations Committee to leave SB-1081 in the suspense file. This bill is unnecessary and would be costly both in dollars and in its impact on the lives of millions of Californians.

Yours in peace,

Kate Connell for the Santa Barbara Friends Meeting