



The Forensic Mental Health Association of California

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June 13, 2005

The Honorable Elaine Alquist, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol Room 4088
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 632 (Chu)

Dear Senator Alquist:

The Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) urges the Senate Public Safety Committee to support Assembly Bill 632 by Assemblymember Judy Chu in the June 28, 2005 committee meeting. Established in 1981, FMHAC has long advocated for legislative proposals that in our view will further the protection of the public and the provision of high quality forensic mental health treatment.

The establishment of the California Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) would provide a mechanism for a collaborative approach in managing sex offenders in our state among the various professions who deal with offenders and victims. A collaborative approach has proven to be the most effective system in managing sex offenders. Unfortunately, our state has a poor history of providing systematic collaboration in this area, reducing the quality of care for offenders and leaving our citizens more vulnerable. This bill would be a significant step toward correcting that.

Additionally, the board's role in assessing sex offender management practices, conducting policy research, and providing recommendations to the legislature will allow our state to further the field of sex offender management, and thereby improve the safety of our citizens and the quality of the services provided.

Please support AB 632 on June 28th. If you have any questions, please call me at (310) 348-7200.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of our members,

Kenneth A. Carabello, LCSW
President Elect