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Assembly California Legislature

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JIM PATTERSON
ASSEMBLYMAN, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

July 19, 2022

The Honorable Rudy Salas
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 4610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Salas and Vice Chairman Laird:

I am writing to request an audit of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate a recent data breach that exposed the names and addresses of all Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permit holders in California. Pursuant to Rule 17 of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, I ask for your concurrence to allow this urgent audit submitted during Summer Recess to move forward on an emergency basis.

The DOJ suffered a data breach on June 27 associated with the launch of its "2022 Firearms Dashboard Portal." This breach resulted in the posting of personal information of all CCW applicants over the past decade to the DOJ's website, including the person's name, age, address, gender, race, driver's license number, criminal history, Criminal Identification Index (CII) number and license type (Standard, Judicial, Reserve and Custodial). It is estimated that more than 200,000 people were affected by the breach, but it could be more. It is believed that other databases were also compromised, including the assault weapon registry, handguns certified for sale, dealer record sale, firearm safety certificate and gun violence restraining order dashboards.

This data breach threatens the safety of many CCW holders, many of whom are domestic violence, stalking and rape victims, security personnel, current and retired state and federal judges, retired law enforcement, and prosecutors in both state and federal courts. Just as we would expect to do with a breach of this magnitude in any other state agency, the Legislature needs a detailed explanation of how this happened so we can ensure that immediate reforms are implemented to restore public trust.

Because emergency audits under Rule 17 of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee are limited to a cost of \$190,000, this request empowers the State Auditor to modify and decrease the scope of

this audit as necessary to remain within this monetary limit. The audit's scope should address the following questions:

1. What is the total number of individuals impacted by the breach, which databases were compromised and for how long was personal information exposed, and what categories of information were released?
2. Does DOJ comply with all relevant laws, rules, regulations, and best practices related to data protection?
3. Has DOJ taken adequate and appropriate actions to investigate the breach and take down any personal information that may be posted on social media sites?
4. What lapses resulted in the breach and what accountability measures have been taken to assign responsibility and prevent future unauthorized data releases?
5. Has appropriate action been taken to prosecute any violations of law associated with the breach?
6. Has DOJ taken appropriate steps to notify all individuals impacted by the breach?
7. Has DOJ taken adequate and appropriate action to ensure the safety and security of impacted individuals?
8. Do victims have the ability to contact DOJ, and does DOJ promptly respond?
9. What steps should DOJ take to improve its data handling policies and practices?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me directly or my Legislative Director, Ian Coolbear at Ian.Coolbear@asm.ca.gov or 916-319-2023.

Sincerely,



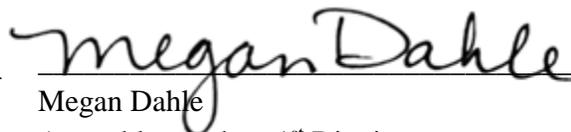
Jim Patterson
Assemblymember, 23rd District



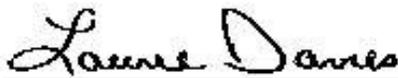
James Gallagher
Assemblymember, 3rd District



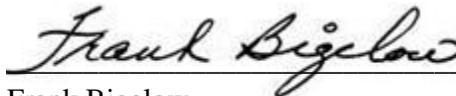
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Assemblymember, 68th District



Megan Dahle
Assemblymember, 1st District



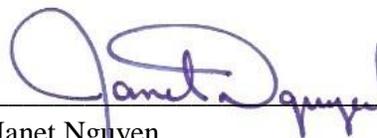
Laurie Davies
Assemblymember, 73rd District



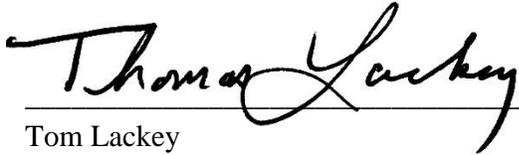
Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember, 5th District



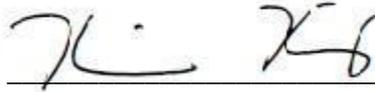
Thurston Smith
Assemblymember, 33rd District



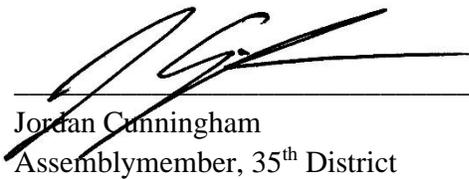
Janet Nguyen
Assemblymember, 72nd District



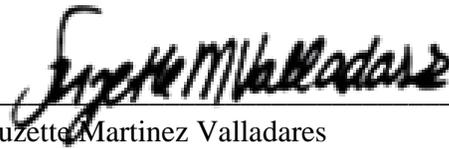
Tom Lackey
Assemblymember, 36th District



Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember, 6th District



Jordan Cunningham
Assemblymember, 35th District



Suzette Martinez Valladares
Assemblymember, 38th District



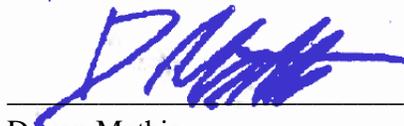
Heath Flora
Assemblymember, 12th District



Phillip Chen
Assemblymember, 55th District



Randy Voepel
Assemblymember, 71st District



Devon Mathis
Assemblymember, 26th District



Marie Waldron
Assemblymember, 75th District



Kelly Seyarto
Assemblymember, 67th District