

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr.
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 3228 (Bonta) Private Detention Facilities - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

NextGen California respectfully requests your support of AB 3228 (Bonta), which will help ensure that private, for-profit detention facilities operate under uniform health and safety protocols and treat persons in their custody in a way that values and respects every person regardless of immigration status.

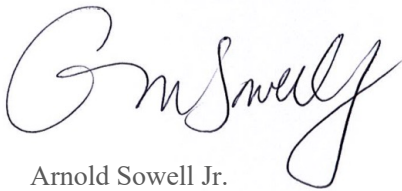
The crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated health and safety conditions in detention facilities and necessitates the need for increased oversight. Studies show that persons in private, for-profit detention facilities are at an increased risk of contracting coronavirus because of the inadequate response that detention facilities have deployed to protect those in their custody in California and nationwide.¹ Their response to the COVID-19 pandemic is just another example of the many deficiencies inherent in the operational processes of private detention facilities when it comes to protecting persons under their custody.

AB 3228 would create the California Detention Standards and Compliance Working Group to oversee the operating practices of private, for-profit detention facilities. In addition to creating clear lines of administrative oversight, this bill would prohibit detention facilities from denying persons in their custody access to interpreter services and medical care, as well as freedom from harassment. Additionally, it would allow the Attorney General, city or district attorneys, and/or persons who have been treated unjustly in private, for-profit detention facilities to pursue a civil cause of action for injunctive and equitable relief.

¹ [Employee Critical of Anti-Coronavirus Measures at Otay Mesa Detention Center](#)

NextGen advocates for fair immigration laws and the humane treatment of the immigrant men, women, and children detained in detention facilities. AB 3228 would ensure that immigrants held in custody are not mistreated and that private, for-profit detention facilities are held to the highest operating standards through responsible oversight.

For all of the above reasons, we respectfully request your “Aye” vote on AB 3228.



Arnold Sowell Jr.

Executive Director, NextGen California