

April 28, 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 2200 (Kalra) Racial Justice Act - SUPPORT

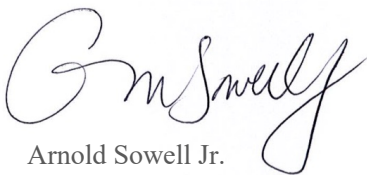
Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

NextGen California respectfully requests your support of AB 2200 (Kalra), which will prohibit the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction, or from imposing a sentence, based on race, ethnicity or national origin.

Although racism and bias are pervasive in our criminal justice system, there must be a path forward to pursue justice in the face of discriminatory treatment during the criminal legal process. Generally, Californians have relied on state or federal constitutional provisions to challenge discrimination in the criminal justice system. However, these provisions have proven insufficient to address persistent racial discrimination in the criminal justice system because proof of purposeful discrimination is required. Such proof is a nearly unattainable standard, leaving victims of discriminatory treatment in our court system with no way to obtain true justice.

NextGen believes that all Californians deserve fair treatment under the law and prioritizes policy that encourages our criminal justice system to more closely approach the ideals of justice and fairness. We are therefore proud to co-sponsor the Racial Justice Act which, for the first time, will establish a clear prohibition on discrimination in our criminal court system and provide for redress when such instances occur. We respectfully request your “Aye” vote for AB 2200.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sowell Jr.
Executive Director, NextGen California