

AB 392: California Act to Save Lives

Author: Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D-San Diego)

What you should know: AB 392 will save lives, advance racial justice, and prevent tragedies. The bill will:

- ✓ Replace vague standard that police can use deadly force whenever “reasonable” with a higher “necessary” standard.
- ✓ Establish that police can use deadly force “only when necessary” to defend against threat of death or serious bodily injury.
- ✓ Hold officers accountable for using deadly force that is not necessary.

PROBLEM

For decades, California families and communities have been shattered by police violence.

We can all agree that police should never take a human life when they have alternatives. While this seems like a common-sense standard, it isn't the current practice in California. Right now, police officers can use deadly force even when they have other options. Police are far more likely to kill people who are Black and Latino than they are people who are white.

SOLUTION

Police should never use deadly force unnecessarily.

The California Act to Save Lives provides a clear standard for when officers can use deadly force. The bill makes sure that police only use deadly force if there is an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury, requiring police in California to use other techniques and resources besides deadly force whenever possible.

If AB 392 becomes law, police departments can discipline or fire officers who use deadly force that is unnecessary, and in some situations, local District Attorneys could file criminal charges.

The bill incorporates best practices to better preserve life. Under President Obama, for example, the U.S. Department of Justice helped many cities adopt similar policies, including San Francisco and Seattle. Seattle's federal monitor determined that Seattle Police Department's use of force policy change resulted in a decline in serious uses of force without any negative impact on officer or public safety.

This year, as part of its investigation into the police killing of Stephon Clark, the California Department of Justice recommended that the Sacramento Police Department also adopt similar policies to AB 392, specifically recommending that they more clearly define when force is authorized and require that its officers use deadly force only when necessary.

If passed and signed into law, AB 392 will transform California from a state with one of the most permissive use of force laws, to a state with one of the strongest laws in the country.

Use of Force By The Numbers

In 2017, officers killed **172 people** in California, half of whom didn't have guns. Police kill more people in California than in any other state.

Of the unarmed people California police killed in 2017, **three out of four** were people of color.

Of the 172 people killed in 2017, nearly **50% were Latino**.

In 2017, Black people in California were **3.2 times more likely** to be killed by police than white people.

California police killed people at a rate **37% higher** than the national average per capita.

A 2015 report found that police in Kern County **killed more people per capita** than in any other U.S. county.

Nationwide, almost **half of people** killed by police have a disability or mental illness.



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO PASS AB 392.

E-mail LetUsLiveCA@gmail.com | www.bit.ly/LetUsLiveCA