June 14, 2022

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, California Assembly Public Safety Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for S.B. 1262, concerning access to court records

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California (NIAC) strongly supports S.B. 1262 because the bill would restore the status quo by enabling searches of court records that is critical to protecting children and other vulnerable populations.

NIAC is a nonprofit that provides insurance to only other 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Many of our members are people serving organizations that have a duty, often under California law, to protect those they serve by doing a reliable search to prevent predators from having access to the vulnerable. Senate Bill 1262 restores the long-standing accessibility of driver’s license numbers (DLN) and dates of birth (DOB) in California court electronic indexes. Due to the prevalence of common names, this critical information is necessary to establish whether a court record belongs to a specific volunteer or job applicant.

Without a return to the status quo, a volunteer’s or job applicant’s name could produce hundreds or thousands of records unrelated to that individual. The result is an enormous burden on the nonprofit seeking to deliver services safely because it is not economically feasible to reliably identify the actual individual without these two additional key fields and it creates enormous delays in hiring people urgently needed to serve these vulnerable populations. S.B. 1262 solves these issues, thereby helping to protect children and other vulnerable populations.

We thank you for your support of S.B. 1262, and we look forward to its passage.

Signed,
Christopher Reed
General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer
Nonprofits Insurance Alliance