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California State Senate

SENATOR
BRIAN DAHLE
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



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NATURAL RESOURCES
& WATER
TRANSPORTATION

September 25, 2023

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Veto of SB 553 (Cortese)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to you to respectfully request a veto of Senate Bill 553, which will require most employers to adopt a workplace violence prevention plan. This plan would include annual employee training, a log of violent incidents, employee communication regarding violent incidents, and correcting violent incidents.

SB 553 imposes new, expensive mandates on California businesses. Despite already being the most overly regulated businesses in the country, California businesses would now be burdened with the workplace safety planning that normally goes through the Cal/OSHA rulemaking processes. Cal/OSHA is currently working on establishing workplace violence prevention regulations for all industries in California. This lengthy Cal/OSHA regulatory process involves experts and stakeholders and includes careful analysis and planning. The process could result in advice that is workable for the industry that also takes the specific needs of the small businesses into account. This bill seemingly bypasses that process by placing the burden of establishing these regulations on the employer.

This is the wrong approach to the ever-increasing crime rates in California. After years of soft on crime policies, California has been overtaken by crime. Rather than forcing businesses to establish these onerous mandates, California needs to focus on policies that prevent crime from happening in the first place. Employers should not be held liable for the dangerous, crime-ridden environment that the State has created.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Dahle".

BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District