April 2, 2024

Senator Dave Cortese, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation

Submitted Electronically

Re: SB 1081 (Archuleta) - OPPOSE

Dear Chair Cortese:

On behalf of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL), I write to oppose SB 1081 (Archuleta), a bill that requires applicants of a California driver’s license to automatically consent to registering with the United States Selective Service System should they be eligible to serve, and that the Department of Motor Vehicle must transmit driver license holders’ information who meet the requirement mentioned above to the U.S. Selective Service System.

AJSOCAL is a social justice organization that works to protect and strengthen the rights and dignity of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, especially those that are most disadvantaged. With offices in Los Angeles and Orange County, we provide direct services, impact litigation, language translation services, and we also advocate for policies that promote a more just society.

AJSOCAL opposes the bill as SB 1081 directs a state agency to transmit peoples’ personal information to the federal government, which would be a significant concern for the immigrant community, especially those who are undocumented.

There’s an estimated number of over 460,000 undocumented Asian immigrants in California, and statistics show that Southeast Asians are deported at the highest number compared to any other immigrant groups. As California passed various measures to protect immigrants, we must continue ensuring sensitive personal information, such as a person’s immigration status, is not easily transmitted to the federal government and agencies, with the possibility that a federal subpoena could override protections passed by the state legislature.

Additionally, we agree with the argument put forth by the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild that “... the “opt-out” provision in SB 1081 could be deceptive and entrapment. Opting out of registration with the SSS would require signing a written admission
of notice of the registration requirement...” This bill will bring confusion to Californians as young as 16 to falsely admitting to violating federal laws.

For these reasons, AJSOCAL opposes SB 1081 (Archuleta).

Sincerely,

Faith Lee

Faith Lee
Legislative Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)