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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 1, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Member of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 627 (Wiener, Pérez, Arreguín) – Law enforcement masks
As amended 7/17/2025 – Support
In Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, I write in support of SB 627, your measure that would prohibit law enforcement officers, including federal officers, from wearing masks or other face coverings while conducting operations in the state, except under specified circumstances.

In recent months, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal agencies have launched numerous immigration enforcement actions across California, including in the County of Santa Barbara on June 10 and July 10. As has been widely covered in the media, federal agents have been observed wearing masks or other facial coverings during enforcement operations, which was the case for some agents at operations in the County.

At its meeting on July 15, the Board of Supervisors held a public discussion on these increased enforcement operations, allowing the Board to review and discuss the events, consider community impacts, and hear from the public. At that meeting, multiple elected officials and approximately 50 members of the public raised serious concerns about the impact of ICE enforcement operations on individuals, families, and the broader community. Many residents expressed frustration, anger, and a desire for greater transparency and accountability in the conduct of federal immigration enforcement activities. Community members expressed widespread fear, which is undermining their trust in government institutions.

The County supports SB 627 because we believe it will facilitate greater transparency and accountability during immigration enforcement events, reduce instances of peace officer impersonation, and help address the diminished trust between communities and federal agencies. The County is committed to public safety and to the fair and respectful treatment of all residents, regardless of immigration status. To rebuild and maintain trust between the federal government and communities across the state, trust and transparency are critical.

Thank you for your leadership on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Honorable Members, Santa Barbara County Delegation