



Peace Officers Research Association of California

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PORAC Applauds Legislature and Governor for Approving and Signing Common Sense Public Safety Measure

**PORAC Advocated for Measure to Ban Felons from Possessing Body Armor,
SB 408 – Now Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger**

Sacramento, CA – The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), the largest statewide public safety association in the nation representing 62,000 public safety members and 890 public safety associations, praises legislators and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today for their swift action in passing Senate Bill 408, by Senator Alex Padilla (D- Pacoima).

“The public safety community believes this bill is not only necessary, but is critically important,” said PORAC President Ron Cottingham. “Violent criminals possessing body armor are extremely dangerous to law enforcement.”

Senate Bill 408 reinstates California law, making it illegal for violent felons to possess body armor. This bill provides a straightforward, practical definition of body armor as “any bullet-resistant material intended to provide ballistic and trauma protection for the person wearing the body armor.” This removes any ambiguity in the law by making it clear to any lay person that violent felons are prohibited from possessing any body armor whatsoever.

This law is critical now more than ever, because of recent attacks against peace officers by felons wearing body armor. In Los Angeles this past March, a parolee with 19 arrests and four convictions was wearing body armor while he led police on a high speed chase. In January, a gunman suspected of killing eight people in Virginia was wearing a bulletproof vest when he was apprehended by police.

“There is no situation we can fathom where a convicted felon would need the use of body armor,” Cottingham continued. “We appreciate lawmakers’ swift action on this necessary law, and PORAC appreciates working together with our brother public safety associations and with our elected officials to make California a safer place to live.”

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Today, PORAC represents over 890 public safety associations and over 62,000 public safety members, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation. PORAC’s core belief is that working together with other agencies throughout California will allow our public safety members to successfully protect the citizens of our state and ensure a safe and welcoming environment in which our future generations can thrive. For more information, please visit www.PORAC.org or www.Facebook.com/PORAC.