

California State Senate

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SENATOR
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TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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MEMBER
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February 26, 2026

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

Governor Newsom,

We write regarding the unconscionable decision by the California Board of Parole Hearings to uphold the release of David Allen Funston, a serial child predator whose crimes involved the kidnapping and sexual assault of multiple very young children. Crimes like these are the very reason harsh penalties exist, and Funston is still capable of harming children.

You have argued that you lack the authority to reverse this decision. However, your hands are not tied, as you control the composition of the Board and have the power to hold them accountable.

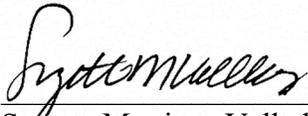
The release of such a violent criminal was not a marginal judgment call or a technical oversight. It was a decision that tells parents across California that even the most dangerous predators won't fully be held accountable. It tells the public that the system is detached from common sense and does not prioritize the safety of our communities. It is incompetent, and neglects the Board's duty to protect and preserve public safety.

When the Board releases a serial child predator, the problem is not a technicality. The problem is the Board itself. We call on you to immediately remove the members of the Board of Parole Hearings who supported this decision and appoint commissioners who will prioritize public

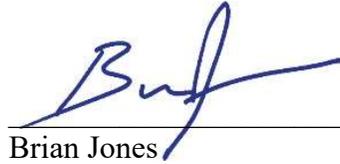
safety and victim protection, rather than siding with dangerous felons who repeatedly prey on California's children.

Californians deserve a parole process that reflects sound judgment, prioritizes victim safety, and respects the gravity of violent crimes against children. Upholding Funston's release demonstrates a failure of judgment that cannot be ignored.

Sincerely,



Suzette Martinez Valladares
Senator, 23rd District



Brian Jones
Senate Minority Leader



Megan Dahle
Senator, 1st District



Marie Alvarado-Gil
Senator, 4th District



Shannon Grove
Senator, 12th District



Kelly Seyarto
Senator, 32nd District



Tony Strickland
Senator, 36th District



Steven Choi
Senator, 37th District