

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0036  
(916) 319-2023  
FAX (916) 319-2123

# Assembly California Legislature

DISTRICT OFFICE  
6245 N. FRESNO ST, SUITE 106  
FRESNO, CA 93710  
(559) 446-2029  
FAX (559) 446-2028



**JIM PATTERSON**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

July 19, 2022

The Honorable Rudy Salas  
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 4610  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird  
Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Salas and Vice Chairman Laird:

I am writing to request an audit of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate a recent data breach that exposed the names and addresses of all Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permit holders in California. Pursuant to Rule 17 of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, I ask for your concurrence to allow this urgent audit submitted during Summer Recess to move forward on an emergency basis.

The DOJ suffered a data breach on June 27 associated with the launch of its "2022 Firearms Dashboard Portal." This breach resulted in the posting of personal information of all CCW applicants over the past decade to the DOJ's website, including the person's name, age, address, gender, race, driver's license number, criminal history, Criminal Identification Index (CII) number and license type (Standard, Judicial, Reserve and Custodial). It is estimated that more than 200,000 people were affected by the breach, but it could be more. It is believed that other databases were also compromised, including the assault weapon registry, handguns certified for sale, dealer record sale, firearm safety certificate and gun violence restraining order dashboards.


This data breach threatens the safety of many CCW holders, many of whom are domestic violence, stalking and rape victims, security personnel, current and retired state and federal judges, retired law enforcement, and prosecutors in both state and federal courts. Just as we would expect to do with a breach of this magnitude in any other state agency, the Legislature needs a detailed explanation of how this happened so we can ensure that immediate reforms are implemented to restore public trust.


Because emergency audits under Rule 17 of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee are limited to a cost of \$190,000, this request empowers the State Auditor to modify and decrease the scope of this audit as necessary to remain within this monetary limit. The audit's scope should address the following questions:

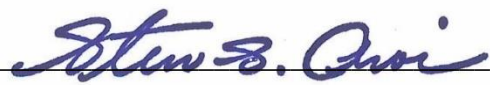
1. What is the total number of individuals impacted by the breach, which databases were compromised and for how long was personal information exposed, and what categories of information were released?
2. Does DOJ comply with all relevant laws, rules, regulations, and best practices related to data protection?
3. Has DOJ taken adequate and appropriate actions to investigate the breach and take down any personal information that may be posted on social media sites?
4. What lapses resulted in the breach and what accountability measures have been taken to assign responsibility and prevent future unauthorized data releases?
5. Has appropriate action been taken to prosecute any violations of law associated with the breach?
6. Has DOJ taken appropriate steps to notify all individuals impacted by the breach?
7. Has DOJ taken adequate and appropriate action to ensure the safety and security of impacted individuals?
8. Do victims have the ability to contact DOJ, and does DOJ promptly respond?
9. What steps should DOJ take to improve its data handling policies and practices?

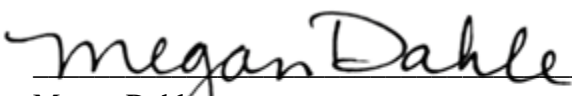
Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me directly or my Legislative Director, Ian Coolbear at [Ian.Coolbear@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ian.Coolbear@asm.ca.gov) or 916-319-2023.

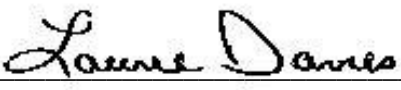
Sincerely,

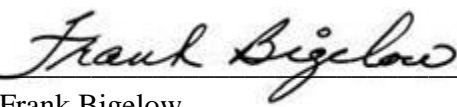
  
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Jim Patterson  
Assemblymember, 23<sup>rd</sup> District

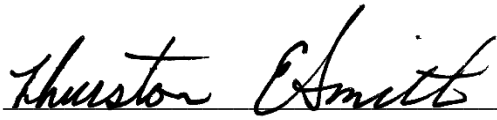
  
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James Gallagher  
Assemblymember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

  
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Steven Choi  
Assemblymember, 68<sup>th</sup> District

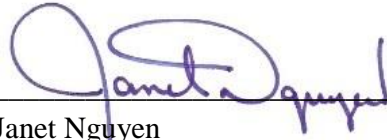
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Dahle  
Assemblymember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

  
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Laurie Davies  
Assemblymember, 73<sup>rd</sup> District

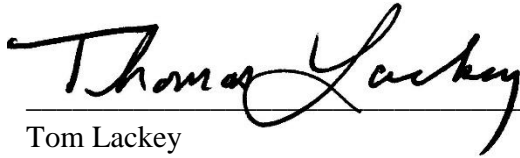
  
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Frank Bigelow  
Assemblymember, 5<sup>th</sup> District



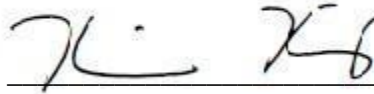
Thurston Smith  
Assemblymember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



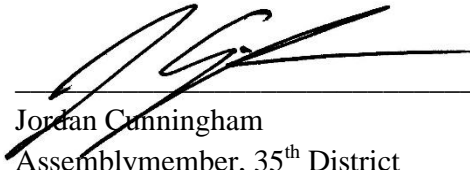
Janet Nguyen  
Assemblymember, 72<sup>nd</sup> District



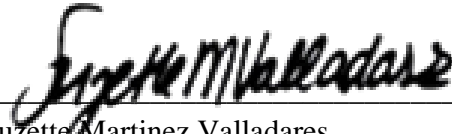
Tom Lackey  
Assemblymember, 36<sup>th</sup> District



Kevin Kiley  
Assemblymember, 6<sup>th</sup> District



Jordan Cunningham  
Assemblymember, 35<sup>th</sup> District



Suzette Martinez Valladares  
Assemblymember, 38<sup>th</sup> District



Heath Flora  
Assemblymember, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Phillip Chen  
Assemblymember, 55<sup>th</sup> District



Randy Voepel  
Assemblymember, 71<sup>st</sup> District



Devon Mathis  
Assemblymember, 26<sup>th</sup> District

*Marie Waldron*

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Marie Waldron  
Assemblymember, 75<sup>th</sup> District

*Kelly Seyarto*

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Kelly Seyarto  
Assemblymember, 67<sup>th</sup> District

*Vince Fong*

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Vince Fong  
Assemblymember, 34<sup>th</sup> District