



March 5, 2024

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris  
California State Assemblymember, 73<sup>rd</sup> District  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0074

**Re: AB 1974 (Petrie-Norris) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

The Consumer Protection Policy Center (CPPC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, academic center of research, teaching, learning and advocacy in regulatory and public interest law based at the University of San Diego School of Law. CPPC supports AB 1974 which will enhance the training that court-connected professionals receive when dealing with cases involving domestic violence.

California has led the way in having court-connected professionals available to assist families with conflicted child custody cases and to assist with safety planning. State law requires that these professionals, which include court-appointed investigators, mediators, and child-custody evaluators undergo domestic violence training. This training includes details on the effects of exposure to domestic violence and psychological trauma on children, the influence of alcohol and drug use and abuse, and the use of psychological testing in assessing parenting abilities in domestic violence cases.

Unfortunately, these professionals are not currently trained on how to manage and resolve domestic violence situations that involve a firearm. Given the enhanced risks associated with firearm possession during instances of domestic violence, this is a clear gap.

AB 1974 requires that existing domestic violence training that court-connected mediators, evaluators, and other relevant persons take additionally include training on the increased risks of firearms. This will better prepare these professionals for when they encounter dangerous scenarios involving victims of domestic violence

and their families to help save lives.

For the above reasons, CPPC supports AB 1974. Thank you for your continued leadership in shaping gun prevention policies.

Sincerely,

*Marcus Friedman*

Marcus Friedman  
Administrative Director  
Center for Public Interest Law  
University of San Diego School of Law