



SHAMANN WALTON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 5, 2022

TO: **California State Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson**

FROM: President Shamann Walton

SUBJECT: **California State Assembly Bill No. 1608, authored by Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson, The Angelo Quinto Act of 2022: Independent Coroner's Offices**

Dear Assembly Member Gipson,

I am writing in strong support of your recently introduced Assembly Bill No. 1608, The Angelo Quinto Act of 2022: Independent Coroner's Offices.

California is only one of three states that allows counties to combine the offices of the coroner and sheriff, which increases the potential for conflicts of interest in law enforcement handling the duties of the coroner.

San Francisco has already separated the duties of the coroner from the sheriff, employing coroners who are independent medical examiners and are required to be licensed physicians and surgeons duly qualified as specialists in pathology.

I believe that a consistent statewide policy towards independent coroner's offices would help to ensure that medical examinations and investigations of sudden, violent, or suspicious deaths are conducted objectively. This strengthening of the medical examination process will help eliminate perceived and actual conflicts of interest and increase accountability and transparency when determining cause of death.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shamann Walton".

Shamann Walton
President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors