

NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Supervisor Biane Lauds Proposed ConRep Legislation

SAN BERNARDINO – Senate Bill 1265 introduced on Friday by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dutton will help protect public safety by allowing officials to notify local law enforcement when mentally disordered offenders are released into communities, San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said.

Dutton introduced the legislation in response to a January 2010 incident in the City of Upland involving men released from mental hospitals under the State Department of Mental Health's Forensic Conditional Release Program (ConRep). Seven patients were living in a home next to an elementary school. One of the patients is accused of killing a fellow patient before fleeing the home, which was not a licensed care facility.

"The fact that the County was prohibited by law from notifying police when these offenders were released into the Upland community is absurd," Biane said. "I applaud Sen. Dutton for acting quickly to introduce legislation that will allow ConRep program providers to alert local police when patients move into a community."

SB 1265 will also limit the number of ConRep patients who can live in the same home to three and will prohibit ConRep patients from living within 2,000 feet of a school.

"Many of ConRep patients have committed serious crimes and suffer from severe mental problems, so it only makes sense to set these kinds of limitations on where they can live and whom they can live with," Biane said.

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