



# CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599  
[www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org)

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January 25, 2024

1601 Longworth  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Subject: Opposition H.R. 1525: Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act**

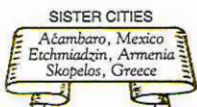
Dear Honorable Congresswoman Grace Napolitano:

I am writing on behalf of the City of La Verne to express our deep concern and opposition to H.R. 1525, the Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act of 2023. As a representative of our city, I would like to bring to your attention several serious law enforcement and public safety concerns associated with this legislation.

H.R. 1525, having passed the House Judiciary Committee in June 2023, is currently under consideration, and we strongly believe that it should not proceed in its current form. The implications of the proposed legislation have far-reaching consequences for law enforcement agencies, particularly in their collaborative efforts to combat major criminal activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, organized retail crime, cybercrime, and more.

The bill eliminates the equitable sharing program, which allows the federal government to share forfeiture proceeds with state and local law enforcement agencies involved in related investigations. This removal will hinder law enforcement's ability to participate in joint task forces and cease their involvement in critical investigations. Task forces, essential for focusing investigative resources on organized criminal activities and serious violent offenders, will be severely affected by the reduction in participation from law enforcement agencies, thereby weakening efforts against major criminal organizations. Furthermore, civil asset forfeiture helps deter crime by allowing law enforcement to deprive criminals of the proceeds of their illegal activities, making it harder to further their illicit business.

The bill will reduce cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies at a time when such collaboration is vital. Less



General Administration 909/596-8726 • Water Customer Service 909/596-8744 • Community Services 909/596-8700  
Public Works 909/596-8741 • Finance 909/596-8716 • Community Development 909/596-8706 • Building 909/596-8713  
Police Department 909/596-1913 • Fire Department 909/596-5991 • General Fax 909/596-8737

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information and intelligence sharing across jurisdictional boundaries will weaken investigative efforts against organized crime and drug trafficking groups, posing a significant risk to public safety. With the ongoing threat posed by Mexico-based drug cartels and China-based criminal organizations, reducing collaborative efforts will have severe consequences on national and local security.

The equitable sharing program is crucial for state and local law enforcement agencies to conduct training, upgrade investigative technology, purchase equipment, and support community-based programs. Ending this program will limit funding opportunities for essential law enforcement activities.

While we acknowledge the need for continuous review and improvement of law enforcement practices, H.R. 1525, in its current form, will do more harm than good. Rather than eliminating effective tools like civil asset forfeiture, we encourage Congress to focus on supporting law enforcement agencies in conducting audits, collecting and reporting data, and implementing transparency measures to ensure these tools' responsible and ethical use.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. We ask that you consider the potential consequences on law enforcement's ability to protect our communities and hope that you will reach out to responsible law enforcement organizations and local officials to learn more about the negative impacts that will occur if H.R. 1525 is signed into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Hepburn  
Mayor of La Verne

CC: The Honorable Congressman Tim Walberg  
The Honorable Senator Laphonza Butler  
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla  
The La Verne City Council  
Acting Chief of Police Sam Gonzalez