

SENATE PRIVACY, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Senator Christopher Cabaldon, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

AB 2624 (Bonta)
Version: May 22, 2026
Hearing Date: June 15, 2026
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
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SUBJECT

Privacy for immigration support services providers

DIGEST

This bill expands the Safe at Home program to include immigration support services providers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Safe at Home is an address confidentiality program operated by the Secretary of State (SOS). The program was created in 1998 to allow victims of domestic violence or stalking to obtain an alternate confidential address to be used in public records. Under the program, SOS is responsible for providing a substitute address to program participants while protecting their actual residential addresses, and also acts as the participants' agent for service of process, and forwards mail received at the substitute address. A participant must be certified by the enrolling office and may stay in the program for four years unless recertified. Their Safe at Home address is also accepted by California state, county, and city government agencies in lieu of a residential or other mailing address. The program has been repeatedly expanded over time to include additional groups, such as survivors of other crimes, including sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, and elder or dependent adult abuse, as well as providers of certain health care services, including reproductive health care and gender-affirming care.

Given the reports of increased harassment and violence directed against providers of immigration support services, this bill expands the Safe at Home program to allow participation by those who provide, assist in providing, or receive immigration support services at a designated immigration support services facility. The bill is sponsored by the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles and supported by various groups, including the California Teachers Association. No timely opposition was received by the Committee. Should it pass out of this Committee, it will next be heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes an address confidentiality (or “Safe at Home”) program within the SOS in order to enable state and local agencies to both accept and respond to requests for public records without disclosing the changed name or address of a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, child abduction, or elder or dependent adult abuse. Existing law permits any such adult victim, or parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person, to apply through a community-based program to have an address designated by SOS as their substitute mailing address. (Gov. Code § 6205 et seq.)
- 2) Allows designated health care services providers, employees, volunteers, and patients to apply to the address confidentiality program through a community-based victims’ assistance program, as specified. (Gov. Code §§ 6215 et seq.) The application is required to contain certain things, including a certified statement signed by a person authorized by the designated health care services facility stating that the facility or any of its providers, employees, volunteers, or patients is or was the target of threats or acts of violence or harassment within one year of the date of the application. (Gov. Code § 6215.2(a)(1)(B).)
- 3) Requires that the SOS certify a successful applicant as a program participant for four years following the date of filing, unless the certification is withdrawn or invalidated before that date, except as provided. Requires SOS to establish a renewal procedure. (Gov. Code §§ 6206 & 6215.2.)
- 4) Allows a participant to withdraw from the Safe at Home program. Provides SOS with the authority to cancel a program participant’s certification for specified reasons. (Gov. Code §§ 6206.5, 6206.7, 6215.3, & 6215.4.)
- 5) Prohibits a person, business, or association from soliciting, selling, or trading on the internet or social media the personal information or image of a designated health care services patient, provider, or assistant with the intent to do either of the following:
 - a) Incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the person identified in the posting or display, or to a coresident of that person, where the third person is likely to commit this harm.
 - b) Threaten the person identified in the posting or display, or a coresident of that person, in a manner that places the person identified or the coresident in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety. (Gov. Code § 6218.)

- 6) Authorizes a person whose personal information as result of a violation of 5), above, may seek injunctive relief and be awarded damages, as specified. (Gov. Code § 6218.)
- 7) Prohibits a person, business, or association from publicly posting or publicly displaying, disclosing, or distributing, on websites or social media, the personal information or image of a designated health care services patient, provider, or assistant if that individual, or any individual, entity, or organization authorized to act on their behalf, has made a written demand of that person, business, or association to not disclose the personal information or image. (Gov. Code § 6218.)
- 8) Prohibits a person, business, or association from soliciting, selling, or trading on the internet or social media the personal information or image of a designated health care services patient, provider, or assistant with the intent to do either of the following:
 - a) incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the person identified in the posting or display, or to a coresident of that person, where the third person is likely to commit this harm; or
 - b) threaten the person identified in the posting or display, or a coresident of that person, in a manner that places the person identified or the coresident in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety.
 - c) A reproductive health care services patient, provider, or assistant whose personal information or image is solicited, sold, or traded in violation of paragraph 9), above, or any individual, entity, or organization authorized to act on their behalf, may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to any other legal rights and remedies, if a jury or court finds that a violation has occurred, it shall award damages to that individual in an amount up to a maximum of three times the actual damages, but in no case less than \$4,000. (Gov. Code § 6218.)
- 9) Prohibits a person from posting on the internet or social media, with the intent that another person imminently use that information to commit a crime involving violence or a threat of violence against a designated health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address, the personal information or image of a designated health care services patient, provider, or assistant, or other individuals residing at the same home address. (Gov. Code § 6218.01.)

This bill:

- 1) Expands the Safe at Home program administered by SOS to a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer (collectively

“providers”) who is fearful for their safety or the safety of their family because of their affiliation with a designated immigration support services facility.

- 2) Imports the provisions of the Safe at Home for these providers. The bill additionally specifies that SOS must cancel certification of a program participant who fails to disclose a change in employment status, or termination as a provider.

COMMENTS

1. Safe at Home

In 1998, SB 489 (Alpert, Ch. 1005, Stats. 1998) established the “Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence” program, which is now referred to as the “Safe at Home” program. This was based on the Legislature’s finding that persons attempting to escape from actual or threatened violence frequently establish new names or addresses in order to prevent their assailants or probable assailants from finding them.

Over the years, the program has been expanded to include victims of other crimes as well as certain vulnerable groups. The Safe at Home program is now available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, child abduction, and elder or dependent adult abuse as well as designated health care service providers, employees, volunteers, and patients and even public entity employees and contractors, as provided.¹

The program provides these individuals with a substitute mailing address in order to protect the confidentiality of the participant’s home, work, or school address. The substitute mailing address is an assigned post office box, and SOS is designated as the participant’s agent for service of process and receipt of mail. Mail is forwarded by SOS from the post office box to the participant. Thus, the Safe at Home program allows participants to have a publicly available address without disclosing the participant’s actual residence or alternate location.

Upon successful application, a program participant is certified to remain in the program for four years, subject to early termination or withdrawal. The participant must re-certify pursuant to the SOS’s renewal process if they wish to continue in the program beyond the four-year enrollment period. Program participants may seek confidential voter status and have their residence address, telephone number, and email address declared confidential upon presentation of certification to the county elections official that the person is a participant in the Safe at Home program. For participants not yet of

¹ See SB 1318 (Alpert, Ch. 562, Stats. 2000), SB 1062 (Bowen, Ch. 639, Stats. 2006), SB 597 (Leyva, Ch. 570, Stats. 2017), SB 1320 (Stern, Ch. 517, Stats. 2018), SB 1131 (Newman, Ch. 554, Stats. 2022), AB 797 (Shelley, Ch. 380, Stats. 2002), AB 243 (Alanis, Ch. 642, Stats. 2023), and AB 82 (Ward, Ch. 679, Stats. 2025).

the age of majority, or for incapacitated persons, a parent or guardian may apply to enroll the individual into the program. According to the most recent Annual Legislative Report from SOS, there were nearly 8,000 active participants.²

In 2006, the Legislature passed a law extending the protections of the Safe at Home program by prohibiting posting specified personal information of a reproductive health care services provider, employee, volunteer, or patient, when the information was posted to incite violence or threaten the subject.³ No court has held these statutes to be unconstitutional or otherwise present an unwarranted barrier to protected activities. This law was updated in 2021 by AB 1356 (Bauer-Kahan, Ch. 191, Stats. 2021), to provide new definitions, update forums where information was not to be posted, and remove the requirement for a demand to remove the information to be done by a sworn affidavit.

Currently the law states that a person, business, or association shall not knowingly publicly post or publicly display, disclose, or distribute on websites or social media, the personal information or image of any designated health care services provider with the intent to incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the designated health care services provider identified in the posting or display, or to a coresident of that person, where the third person is likely to commit this harm. This also extends to where the intent is to threaten the designated health care services provider in a manner that places the person identified in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety.

Similar prohibitions are included where the provider has made a written demand to not disclose the personal information or image. The law imposes civil and criminal liability on violators.

2. Expanding the Safe at Home program

This bill expands the Safe at Home program to “designated immigration support services providers, employees, or volunteers,” which means a person who provides, assists in providing, or receives immigration support services at a designated immigration support services facility. Eligible facilities include locations where immigration support services are provided, including nonprofit organizations offices, Department Of Justice-recognized entities, community legal clinics, law offices, accredited representative sites that provide immigration legal services, and health care facilities.

² 2025 Annual Legislative Report for the Secretary of State’s Safe at Home Program, (January 9, 2026) SOS, <https://admin.cdn.sos.ca.gov/reports/2025/sah-annual-report.pdf>. All internet citations are current as of June 12, 2026.

³ AB 2251 (Evans, Ch. 486, Stats. 2006); Gov. Code, §§ 6218-6218.05.

According to the author:

AB 2624, the Safe at Work Act, strengthens protections for individuals working in immigrant service roles, including nonprofit staff, volunteers, and legal services providers, who may face risks such as doxxing, harassment, or threats due to the nature of their work. By extending the Safe at Home Program protections, the bill allows eligible participants to keep their personal information confidential in public records, helping reduce exposure to harm while supporting the continued delivery of legal, social, and humanitarian services. This proposal promotes safety, privacy, and continuity of essential services, reinforcing public confidence and ensuring that those serving communities across California can carry out their responsibilities effectively and securely.

Reports indicate that those working for or with organizations providing services to immigrant communities are being increasingly targeted with harassment and threats.⁴ Writing in support, Immigrant Defenders Law Center highlights the reality:

Immigrant support providers across our field, whether working in legal assistance, advocacy, education or community support, are operating under heightened risk in the current political climate. Many have experienced harassment, threats, doxxing, and targeted intimidation due to their work. These incidents have escalated significantly in recent years and are likely to continue given the current climate surrounding immigration policy. Such threats jeopardize the safety of advocates and staff and disrupt the vital services they provide to immigrant communities. Advocates and staff should not have to fear that sensitive personal information, such as their home addresses, can be weaponized against them by anti-immigrant vigilantes.

This extension of the Safe at Home program allows those vulnerable to this targeting to benefit from the confidentiality provided by the program.

CHIRLA, a co-sponsor of the bill, writes:

Currently, the law does not offer these individuals the same confidentiality protection that exists for other groups under the Safe at Home Program, leaving them at risk of danger. AB 2624 addresses this gap by allowing those serving immigrant populations to access the critical

⁴ See Miriam Jordan, *Faith-Based Groups That Assist Migrants Become Targets of Extremists* (June 2, 2024) The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/02/us/migrants-charities-shelters-threats.html#:~:text=San%20Diego%2C%20Catholic,echoing%20it%20themselves>.

privacy safeguards, helping them work without fear for their safety. The Safe at Home Program has a long history of protecting people in vulnerable situations. Originally designed for survivors of domestic violence, it has been expanded over the years to include victims of stalking, reproductive health workers, and gender-affirming health care providers. AB 2624 extends these protections to the immigration services sector, ensuring that personal information remains confidential and that threats of harassment can be legally addressed under existing civil and criminal frameworks.

The expansion of these protections strengthens the broader support ecosystem, preserving the integrity and continuity of services offered by immigrant support organizations. By shielding staff and volunteers from exposure to online harassment and physical threats, AB 2624 allows organizations to continue providing legal guidance, advocacy, and community resources safely and effectively. Protecting those who serve immigrants ultimately helps immigrant communities live with dignity and access the support they need in California.

SUPPORT

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) (sponsor)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a Project of California Common
CAUSE
California Teachers Association
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
PowerCA Action
San Francisco Marin Medical Society
Unidosus

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

AB 82 (Ward, Ch. 679, Stats. 2025) *See* Comment 1.

AB 243 (Alanis, Ch. 642, Stats. 2023) *See* Comment 1.

SB 1131 (Newman, Ch. 554, Stats. 2022) *See* Comment 1.

AB 797 (Shelley, Ch. 380, Stats. 2002) *See* Comment 1.

AB 1726 (Aguiar-Curry, Ch. 686, Stats. 2022) provided additional protections and eased requirements applicable to participants in the Safe at Home program.

AB 2872 (Akilah Weber, Ch. 975, Stats. 2022) made a series of modifications to the Safe at Home program, including changes to applications, notice requirements, and bases for termination.

AB 277 (Valladares, Ch. 457, Stats. 2021) required, by January 1, 2023, the SOS to provide application forms, notices, and explanatory materials related to the Safe at Home program in at least five languages; and the inclusion of information about the Safe at Home program on Judicial Council forms relating to domestic violence.

AB 1356 (Bauer-Kahan, Ch. 191, Stats. 2021)

SB 1320 (Stern, Ch. 517, Stats. 2018) *See Comment 1.*

SB 597 (Leyva, Ch. 570, Stats. 2017) *See Comment 1.*

SB 1233 (Oropeza, Ch. 326, Stats. 2010) made the Safe at Home program permanent, removing the sunset provision on the law.

SB 1062 (Bowen, Ch. 639, Stats. 2006) *See Comment 1.*

AB 2251 (Evans, Ch. 486, Stats. 2006) *See Comment 1.*

SB 1318 (Alpert, Ch. 562, Stats. 2000) *See Comment 1.*

AB 1669 (Assembly Committee on Judiciary, Ch. 668, Stats. 2000) exempted domestic violence victims from the publication requirement of the name change procedures of the Code of Civil Procedure for participants in the Safe at Home Program.

SB 489 (Alpert, Ch. 1005, Stats. 1998) *See Comment 1.*

PRIOR VOTES:

Assembly Floor (Ayes 57, Noes 19)

Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 11, Noes 4)

Assembly Public Safety Committee (Ayes 7, Noes 2)

Assembly Judiciary Committee (Ayes 9, Noes 3)

Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee (Ayes 11, Noes 2)
