

(Without Reference to File)**CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

AB 2624 (Bonta)

As Amended July 2, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill, on October 1, 2027, expands the Safe at Home program to include immigration support services providers.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Delays implementation until October 1, 2027.
- 2) Recasts the prohibition against publicly displaying, posting, disclosing or distributing on the internet the personal information or image of a program participant if the individual receives a written demand.

COMMENTS

The Safe at Home Program. The Secretary of State's (SOS) Safe at Home (SAH) 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 SAH program, the SOS is responsible for providing a substitute address to program participants while protecting their actual residential addresses and 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 SAH address is also accepted by California state, county, and city government agencies in lieu of a residential or other mailing address.

The SAH address confidentiality program has been expanded over time to include survivors of other crimes – including sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, child abduction, and elder or dependent adult abuse. In 2002, the SAH program was replicated and made available to reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers and patients who are fearful of their safety. In 2022, the program for reproductive service providers, employees, volunteers and patients was expanded to include a person who is employed by or performs work pursuant to a contract with a public entity and faces threats of violence or harassment from the public because of their work for the public entity. In 2025, the program was expanded again to include gender affirming care providers, employees, volunteers, and patients.

This bill proposes to once again expand the program to include immigration support services providers, employees, and volunteers who would be afforded all the same protections as people providing reproductive care and gender affirming care.

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.

Arguments in Support

CHIRLA 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 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.

Arguments in Opposition

None According to the *California Baptists for Biblical Values*:

We strongly oppose Assembly Bill 2624, authored by Assembly Member Bonta. This bill would establish a broad address confidentiality program that protects immigration support service providers, staff, and volunteers from public exposure. It would also introduce civil and criminal penalties for anyone sharing their personal information online. Although presented as a safety measure, AB 2624 would serve as a powerful tool for organizations to hide their activities from public scrutiny, including from investigative journalists exposing fraud and abuse in California's immigration sector. The First Amendment guarantees free speech and a free press — essential rights that allow citizens and journalists to reveal misconduct, hold institutions accountable, and speak truth to power. The sweeping ban on publicly sharing the personal details of any immigration worker, under threat of criminal and civil penalties, would deter legitimate reporting and accountability efforts.

No one should be beyond public oversight by legislative action. As people of faith, we believe that truth and transparency are the foundations of justice. Proverbs 12:17 (KJV) states: "*An honest witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.*" California's communities deserve honest witnesses — reporters, watchdogs, and citizens — who must be free to investigate and expose deception without fear of prosecution. AB 2624 would silence these witnesses and protect wrongdoers from accountability.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Estimated \$290,000 in FY 2026-27 and \$154,000 annually thereafter to fund staffing, outreach, training, policies, application processing, and partnerships with immigration support service organizations within the existing Safe at Home program infrastructure.

The bill would also require updates to the Safe at Home Salesforce system and online enrollment portal to accommodate the new applicant category and increase ongoing IT support (General Fund).

Safe at Home participants can request to be in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Protected Records Program. DMV anticipates costs of approximately \$325,000 annually to process record suppression applications for the newly eligible persons. Because the program does not include any fee structure, participation would create unfunded Motor Vehicle Account (MVA) impacts.

The MVA, the primary funding account for the DMV and the California Highway Patrol, is facing insolvency. The LAO has noted that, "Until a plan is put in place to address MVA's structural deficit, we recommend the Legislature set a high bar for considering approval of any proposals that create additional MVA cost pressures and accelerate the risk of insolvency." The Governor's FY 2026-2027 Budget projects the MVA will be insolvent as soon as FY 2028-29.

VOTES:**ASM PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION: 11-2-2**

YES: Lowenthal, Bryan, Hart, Irwin, McKinnor, Ortega, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ward, Wicks, Wilson

NO: Macedo, DeMaio

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Patterson

ASM JUDICIARY: 9-3-0

YES: Kalra, Bauer-Kahan, Bryan, Connolly, Harabedian, Pacheco, Papan, Stefani, Zbur

NO: Macedo, Dixon, Sanchez

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 7-2-0

YES: Schultz, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

NO: Alanis, Lackey

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-4-0

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 57-19-4

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: Alanis, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bains, Castillo, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

UPDATED

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