

March 2, 2026
Senator Shannon Grove
1021 O Street, Suite 7150,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 1070
Dear Senator Grove,



On behalf of tens of thousands of constituents, allied organizations, and more than 2,000 churches across California, the California Family Council proudly supports SB 1070, legislation that strengthens protections against the intentional disruption of religious worship. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the free exercise of religion, including the right of faith communities to assemble and worship without interference. When individuals deliberately disrupt services, they are not committing a minor offense; they are interfering with a fundamental constitutional right. California's current misdemeanor framework for this offense does not reflect the seriousness of this conduct.

Incidents of organized intimidation, aggressive interruptions, and targeted harassment of congregants have increased in recent years. A national report documented more than 415 hostile acts against churches in 2024, with California reporting the highest number: [40 incidents](#). When the maximum penalty is a misdemeanor, there is little deterrent. SB 1070 provides prosecutors with appropriate tools to hold offenders accountable and signals that attacks on places of worship will not be treated as minor infractions.

Churches are not venues for political rallies or protest stages. They are sacred spaces where families gather to worship God in peace. When agitators intentionally invade or obstruct services, they are not exercising free speech. They are trampling on the religious liberty of others. California must send a clear message that worship services will be protected.

SB 1070 applies equally to all religious communities across California, affirming that every congregation is entitled to gather and worship free from intentional interference.

For these reasons, the California Family Council supports SB 1070. Strengthening protections for religious assembly is a matter of constitutional integrity, equal justice, and public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Burt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Burt
Vice President
California Family Council