

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

AB 2624 (Bonta)
Version: May 22, 2026
Hearing Date: June 23, 2026
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
ME

SUBJECT

Privacy for immigration support services providers

DIGEST

This bill allows immigration support services providers, employees, or volunteers who are fearful for their safety or the safety of their family because of their affiliation with a designated immigration support services facility, to participate in the “Safe at Home” address confidentiality program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This bill seeks to build upon existing protections under California law by, among other things, expanding the existing “Safe at Home” address confidentiality program for immigration support services providers, employees, or volunteers who are fearful for their safety or the safety of their family because of their affiliation with a designated immigration support services facility.

The bill is sponsored by the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles and the Women’s Foundation California, Solis Policy Institute, and is supported by immigrant and civil rights organizations, and labor unions, among others. The Committee received no timely opposition to the bill. The bill passed the Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee on a vote of 7 to 2. Should this bill be approved by this Committee, the bill will next be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes an address confidentiality (or “Safe at Home”) program within the Office of the Secretary of State (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, or stalking. 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 victims' assistance program to have an address designated by the SOS as their substitute mailing address. (Gov. Code §§ 6205 et seq.)

- 2) Existing law similarly allows reproductive health care 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 reproductive 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) Provides that if the applicant alleges that the basis for the application is that the applicant is a reproductive health care services facility volunteer, the application must, in addition to the documents specified in 2), above, be accompanied by reproductive health care services facility documentation showing the length of time the volunteer has committed to working at the facility. (Gov. Code § 6215.2(a)(2).)
- 4) 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 reproductive health care services facilities volunteers are to be certified until six months from the last date of volunteering with the facility. Requires the SOS to establish a renewal procedure. (Gov. Code §§ 6206(c) & 6215.2 (e).)
- 5) Allows a participant to withdraw from the Safe at Home program. Provides the SOS with the authority to cancel a program participant's certification for specified reasons. (Gov. Code §§ 6206.5, 6206.7, 6215.3, & 6215.4.)
- 6) 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 co-resident 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 co-resident of that person, in a manner that places the person identified or

the co-resident in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety.
(Gov. Code § 6218.)

- 7) Authorizes a person whose personal information or image is made public as a result of a violation of 6), above, to seek injunctive relief and be awarded damages, as specified. (Gov. Code § 6218.)
- 8) 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.)
- 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 expands the Safe at Home program administered by the California Secretary of State to also apply to a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer who is fearful for their safety or the safety of their family because of their affiliation with a designated immigration support services facility.

COMMENTS

1. Stated need for the bill

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.

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

With the passage of SB 489 (Alpert, Ch. 1005, Stats. 1998), the California State Legislature established the Safe at Home program within the Office of the Secretary of State to allow victims of domestic violence to apply for a substitute address to be used in public records in order to prevent their assailants, or potential assailants, from finding their work or home address. Through subsequent legislation, the program has been expanded to include victims of sexual assault or stalking, and reproductive health care and gender-affirming care service providers, employees, volunteers, and patients. (See, for example, SB 1318 (Alpert, Ch. 562, Stats. 2000) and AB 797 (Shelley, Ch. 380, Stats. 2002).)

Upon successful application, a program participant is certified to remain in the program for four years, subject to early termination or withdrawal, and must re-certify pursuant to the SOS's renewal process if the participant wishes to continue in the program beyond the four-year enrollment period. For victims not yet of the age of majority or incapacitated persons, a parent or guardian may apply to enroll the victim into the program. 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. This provision makes certain public records confidential; however, as the program has strict parameters around enrollment and the purpose of the program is to provide confidentiality to its participants. California generally recognizes that public access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right.¹ At the same time, the state recognizes that this right must be balanced against the right to privacy.² The general right of access to public records may, therefore, be limited when other important public policy considerations warrant such limitation.

As explained in the Senate Privacy Digital Technologies and Consumer Protection Committee analysis for this bill:

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

¹ Cal. Const., art. I, § 3; Gov. Code, § 7921.000.

² Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.

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

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.

The national anti-immigrant political climate has put immigration services providers at higher risk of danger. The media and service providers have reported that organizations that assist immigrants have become targets of extremists.⁴ The author brings this bill to help ensure that this targeted population is able to benefit from the Safe at Home program just like other targeted persons in California. This bill applies the Safe at Home program to designated immigration support services providers, employees, or volunteers.

3. Statements in support

Bill sponsors, the Coalition for Humane immigrant Rights, write the following in support:

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

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>.

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)
Women's Foundation California, Solis Policy Institute (sponsor)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
California Community Foundation
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a Project of California Common
California Teachers Association
CAUSE
Democrats of Rossmoor
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Immigrants Rising
PowerCA Action
San Francisco Marin Medical Society
UnidosUS
Western Center on Law and Poverty
5 individuals

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending legislation: None known.

Prior legislation:

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 1356 (Bauer-Kahan, Ch. 191, Stats. 2021) *See* Comment 2.

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

AB 2251 (Evans, Ch. 486, Stats. 2006) *See* Comment 2.

AB 797 (Shelley, Ch. 380, Stats. 2002) *See* Comment 2.

SB 1318 (Alpert, Ch. 562, Stats. 2000) *See* Comment 2.

SB 489 (Alpert, Ch. 1005, Stats. 1998) *See* Comment 2.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee (Ayes 7,
Noes 2)

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)
