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LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

March 4, 2026

The Honorable John Harabedian
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1020 N Street, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

REVISED 3/4/2026

Re: Request for Audit on DMV Database Violation Records

Dear Chairman Harabedian:

We, the undersigned members, are writing to request an audit of the Department of Motor Vehicle's (DMV) database violation records to address errors that have allowed drivers convicted of vehicular manslaughter or other fatal-crash offenses to maintain their driving privileges.

Under current law, California courts are required to forward abstract convictions of traffic-related offenses to the DMV within 5 days of sentencing or upon the court order. This law ensures the DMV has the most up-to-date information on drivers' records for purposes such as points, license suspension, and traffic offender status.

However, according to the *CalMatters* five-part series, "License to Kill," California courts have failed to report hundreds of vehicular manslaughter convictions to the DMV over the past 5 years, allowing dangerous drivers to maintain their driver's licenses. They identified roughly 400 cases from 2019 – 2024, where driver convictions were not listed on their records due to the reporting failures of the courts.

Across several California counties, required court records were not reliably submitted to the DMV and in some jurisdictions, the relied upon automated reporting tools experienced technical issues that prevented systems from operating as designed. The failed coordination efforts between the judicial system and the DMV have left California drivers vulnerable. These gaps must be addressed to improve operational efficiency, and most importantly, to prevent more families undergoing the unimaginable pain of losing a loved one.

Within five years, 20,000 lives were lost on our roadways. When lives are at stake, failures in reporting must be identified and corrected without delay. This lack of oversight and interagency enforcement is unacceptable. Rising caseloads or breakdowns in operational infrastructure signal systemic dysfunction that demands immediate action. We must protect our drivers and prevent further tragedy for Californians.

For transparency purposes, the scope of our audit request is intended to address, but not limited to, the following questions:

1. What is the current volume of unprocessed abstract convictions, by offense type and by court?
2. How does the current backlog compare to pre-pandemic baselines and how many drivers experienced delayed license actions or incorrect driving records due to backlog issues?
3. Is the DMV currently in compliance with the regulatory timelines governing DMV processing of abstract convictions?
4. What legal or due process risks arise from delayed posting of convictions (License suspensions, points, insurance impacts).
5. How are abstract convictions transmitted (electronic vs. paper), and what percentage of courts still rely on manual submissions?
6. Which courts generate the highest error and how often are abstract convictions returned for correction?
7. What are the end-to-end steps for processing an abstract conviction, and where do the longest delays occur in the workflow?
8. What is the average caseload per employee, and how are staff assigned to abstract processing?
9. What systems are used for abstract conviction intake processing and are those systems interoperable with court case management systems statewide?
10. What performance metrics does the DMV track for abstract processing, who is accountable for backlog reduction, and do any corrective plans exist?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Izzy Swindler at izzy.swindler@asm.ca.gov or 916-319-2034.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman Tom Lackey
34th Assembly District



Senator Bob Archuleta
30th Senate District



Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick
1st Assembly District



Assemblyman James Gallagher
3rd Assembly District



Assemblyman David Tangipa
8th Assembly District



Assemblyman Juan Alanis
22nd Assembly District

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Assembly
California Legislature



TOM LACKEY
ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

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