



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS

"Advancing Forensic Science Through Effective Management"

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Position Statement on Assembly Bill 390: Criminal Law: DNA Evidence

On behalf of the California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (CACLD), we are pleased to support AB 390, which would allow for restoration of DNA sample collection for crimes which were previously felonies, but were reclassified as misdemeanors by Proposition 47.

Prior to the passage of Proposition 47, adults arrested for, and juveniles adjudicated for, violations of statutes prohibiting shoplifting, forgery, check fraud, theft, receiving stolen property, and possession of controlled substances were required to provide DNA samples because those offenses could be felonies. By converting those offenses to misdemeanors, Prop 47 eliminated our ability to collect DNA samples from an entire cohort of persons.

It is well documented that DNA is a crucial crime-fighting tool; it helps prove not only guilt but innocence. DNA has solved cold cases and DNA taken in property crimes and other "low-level" offenses has solved much more serious crimes. AB 390 restores the authority to collect DNA that formerly existed.

For these reasons, CACLD is pleased to support AB 390.

CACLD Board

April 17, 2015