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September 21, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 1238 (Ting) – The Freedom to Walk Act – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to request your signature for AB 1238, which would legalize safe street crossings outside of a crosswalk or against a traffic light.

Jaywalking laws prevent pedestrians from making safe and logical choices about crossing the street. In addition, they prioritize vehicle traffic over pedestrian traffic, reinforcing a car-centric mindset that results in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. This bill will reprioritize pedestrian movement on California streets, encouraging non-car modes of transportation.

Many pedestrians already safely cross streets outside of crosswalks in California but are at risk of receiving a traffic ticket if they do so. Given that people of color can be disproportionately targeted for traffic stops, legalizing jaywalking also removes a potential for bias in traffic enforcement.

AB 1238 has the support of 90 organizations, including the state's largest pedestrian safety organizations, and dozens of organizations focused on civil, human, and immigrant rights, racial and environmental justice, bike safety and more. As a step on the road to racial justice, sustainability and safety for all Californians, we respectfully urge you to sign AB 1238, the Freedom to Walk Act.

Sincerely,

Jesse O'Sullivan
Policy Counsel