

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Honorable Robert Bonta  
Attorney General  
State of California  
1300 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Attorney General Bonta,

We write to you today with deep concerns regarding the recent leak of sensitive information of California citizens who applied for a concealed-carry permit over the past 10 years. This massive privacy violation by the California Department of Justice is an egregious breach of public trust and puts the safety of American citizens simply exercising a constitutional right at risk.

According to reports, the California Department of Justice updated their Firearms Dashboard Portal on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. That update inexplicably contained the personal data of every individual who applied for a concealed-carry permit from 2011 to 2021, including their names, birthdates, driver's license numbers, addresses and criminal histories. It took until June 28<sup>th</sup> to remove all information from the website, but not before it was downloaded multiple times.

This breach impacted thousands of California residents and is a particular risk to the more than 650 judges and reserve law enforcement officers whose data was leaked. Additionally, we have had constituents contact our offices to inform us that their private information was compromised by this leak and who are now fearful that their homes and families could be targeted by criminals who now have access to their address.

This leak, whether it was intentional or the result of negligence, is unacceptable and a stain on the California Department of Justice. We are glad that you have announced an investigation into this leak, and we strongly urge you to conduct a thorough and expeditious investigation into this matter. Once completed, the results of the investigation should be made public in the interest of transparency, and we urge you to hold the individuals who are responsible for this breach accountable.

As you conduct this investigation, we urge you to seek answers to the following questions:

- Which individuals are responsible for this unprecedented leak of private information? If this leak was not due to human error and instead the result of a technical error, what systems were responsible and what actions can be taken to prevent a breach like this in the future?
- If the leak was the result of actions by any personnel within the California Department of Justice, was political bias a factor given the fact that this leak occurred just days after a recent Supreme Court ruling that will impact California's concealed-carry permit issuance process?
- What actions will be taken in response to this breach to protect the personal information of Californians?

A full and complete investigation into this matter is necessary to restore public confidence in the California Department of Justice, the agency tasked with protecting and serving the people of California. We trust that you will take this duty seriously and seek answers and solutions to the questions and problems raised by this egregious privacy breach.

Sincerely,



Mike Garcia  
Member of Congress



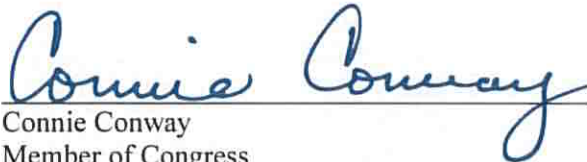
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