

California State Senate

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SENATOR
STEVEN S. CHOI, PH.D.
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PROTECTION AND ENERGY

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Signature Request: SB 221 (Ochoa Bogh) – Crimes: stalking.

Dear Governor Newsom,

I respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 221, to expand the meaning of “credible threat” within California’s stalking statute to include threats to a person’s pet, service animal, emotional support animal, or horse.

SB 221 provides critical protections for stalking victims by recognizing that threats to pets, service animals, and emotional support animals can be just as harmful as threats to family members. Abusers frequently use animals as leverage to intimidate and control victims, and this bill closes a dangerous loophole in the law.

By expanding the definition of credible threat, the measure ensures that courts and law enforcement can respond appropriately to the real fears experienced by victims. Service animals and emotional support animals are essential for the safety, independence, and well-being of many Californians, particularly those with disabilities. This bill affirms that protecting victims means protecting the animals who are integral to their lives.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your signature on SB 221. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 651-4037. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven S. Choi".

Senator Steven Choi, Ph.D.
37th Senate District