



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

1102 Q Street • Suite 3000 • Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

March 27, 2019

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5119  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**RE: Assembly Bill 1043 (Irwin) – Use of Campaign Funds; Cybersecurity - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Irwin,

On March 21, 2019, the bi-partisan Fair Political Practices Commission voted to support Assembly Bill 1043, a bill to permit the use of campaign funds to pay for, or reimburse the state for, the installation and monitoring of hardware, software, and services related to cybersecurity.

Under current law, a candidate may use campaign funds to purchase an electronic security system. To do so, the candidate must have received threats to his or her physical safety because of his or her status as a candidate or elected official and the incidents must be verified by an appropriate law enforcement agency. No more than \$5,000 may be spent and a report to the FPPC is required.

Today's elected officials and candidates face countless cybersecurity threats including hacking and phishing schemes. These cybersecurity threats may invade devices and databases to steal personal or campaign-related information with the goal of profiting from the victims' information or releasing information and communications meant to be kept private. The Commission believes the use of campaign funds to secure a candidate's devices from these new electronic threats is related to political, legislative, or governmental purposes.

For these reasons, the FPPC is pleased to support AB 1043. If you have any questions, please contact Phillip Ung at (916) 322-7635 or [pung@fppc.ca.gov](mailto:pung@fppc.ca.gov). Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Loressa Hon  
Acting Executive Director