WHEREAS, protecting every person in our state from crime is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, California has had a larger increase in crime than the rest of the United States due to recent legislations; and

WHEREAS, California’s existing bail schedule system allows judges to exercise discretion to raise or lower bail for violent felons based on public safety, the seriousness of the offense, and the probability that the offender will appear at trial; and

WHEREAS, the risk assessment is already being done under the current bail system by the Detention Release Officers when defendants are arrested, before they appear in court; and

WHEREAS, the current bail system has been operating effectively for decades, and people who bailed out tend to return to court to make their appearances and

WHEREAS, law enforcement doesn’t have the resources to locate and re-arrest defendants who failed to appear in court; and

WHEREAS, on the other hand, bail agents and companies, at their own cost, is incentivized to locate and return defendants to court. Bail agents and surety insurance companies today provide a benefit to the people of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the state legislature passed Senate Bill 10 which will eliminate cash bail, dramatically altering our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 10 will grant automatic release for what the state determines to be “low-risk” defendants, jeopardizing the safety of our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 10 will make it easier for criminals to evade justice and hurt crime victims; and

WHEREAS, this referendum will restore our criminal justice system and prioritize the public safety of our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the Referendum to Overturn a 2018 Law that Replaced Money Bail System with a System Based on Public Safety Risk.