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Dear Attorney General Brown,

We are writing to urge you to appeal the 2nd District Court of Appeals decision in *People v. Saleem* (B204606) to the California Supreme Court. That decision wrongly invalidated the ban of those convicted of violent felonies from possessing or wearing body armor.

The case arose when Los Angeles Police Officers stopped convicted murderer Ethan Saleem in 2007 while he was out on parole after serving time for his conviction of voluntary manslaughter. Mr. Saleem was wearing a 10-pound military style armored vest that had a label reading "body armor, fragmentation protection," which he was not allowed to wear because of his violent felony conviction. The Court of Appeals reversed his conviction for being a violent felon in possession of body armor on the grounds that the law was constitutionally vague, and that Saleem and other violent felons would not know when they were in violation of the law.

The law that was invalidated was certainly not overly broad---only those convicted of violent felonies were prohibited from possessing body armor. In our view--- and that of one dissenting Justice Richard Aldrich ---the majority on the Court of Appeals ruled the wrong way. However, as Justice Aldrich pointed out, "if a violent felon chooses to possess an item that appears to be body armor...and the garment is actually body armor...then there is no reason why the conviction should not stand." We wholeheartedly concur.

This case further illustrates the message that we have been hammering home the past few months---felon parolees released from prison early pose an avoidable danger to our communities. Certainly Saleem wasn't wearing body armor because he was going to a job interview or going on a date. Like so many parolees before him and, if early prison releases begin, likely to come after him, he was again engaged in criminal activity. Just