

Caleb Merendino

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

As someone that has worked in a 9-1-1 Call Center and also as a volunteer in EMS/Rescue, I am writing in strong support of LD 369, which would enact legislation that would criminalize the act of recording a crime in progress, as opposed to calling 9-1-1. We have seen continuous news stories of killings, break-ins, and graphic and unacceptable actions. Tragedies include a fire chief bleeding out from a gunshot wound, as well as an NYPD Officer who was struck by a vehicle and run over – both incidents simply filmed for Snapchat and first hand coverage.

Our youth and my generation seem more interested in the number of hits and views they can get on social media, instead of the basic principal of caring about their fellow neighbor. I strongly believe that you are neglecting your community when your social media story is more important than saving someone's life. Many of these incidents are occurring in other parts of the nation, but rest assured it happens in our backyard too.

This is simple. We are a community and in this fight together. We are neighbors and this is not the America we are. If folks want to record after the incident has been reported, that is their right.

Please vote YES on LD 369.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Caleb Merendino