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Californians for Safer Communities Coalition Announce the Turn-In of Over 900,000 Voter Signatures to Qualify the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act for the November Election

Fresno, CA – Today, the Californians for Safer Communities Coalition announced that it will submit over 900,000 voter signatures to qualify the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act (Initiative 23-0017A1) to qualify for the November General Election ballot. To qualify the measure for the November 2024 ballot, the law requires 546,651 valid signatures.

The bipartisan measure is focused on improving safety in every community and neighborhood in California. It focuses narrowly on accountability measures for repeat offenders of theft and drug traffickers of serious drugs like fentanyl, while incentivizing and encouraging more individuals to participate in and complete drug treatment programs. The measure creates a deterrent for repeat offenders and redirects addicts towards treatment rather than incarceration.

I would like to thank the people of Fresno County who supported this ballot initiative financially and all the signature gatherers. This bi-partisan movement to amend Prop 47 and begin to restore accountability to thieves and illegal drug abusers is just the beginning of what needs to be done to restore law and order to the state of California," DA Smittcamp said. "The overwhelming number of people who eagerly lined up to sign these petitions are speaking to the legislators in Sacramento to tell them they are not satisfied with their soft on crime policies and that they want repeat offenders to be held accountable by police, prosecutors, and judges. We are moving with great momentum to the November ballot where Californians will have their chance to vote for change."

Passed in 2014, Prop 47 achieved notable success in making California's criminal justice system more equitable. However, it led to unintended consequences over the past decade — repeat and often organized retail theft, inner-city store closings, and difficulty convincing people to seek drug and mental health treatment — that can only be corrected by the voters at the ballot box with commonsense changes to Prop 47. It is time for meaningful reforms to our justice system, including to Prop 47, that ensure our communities are safe.

The proposed ballot measure will:

- Hold those who are committing repeated retail theft and fentanyl sales crimes accountable, for the safety and health of our communities.
- Create accountability for repeat smash and grab offenders who are driving up costs for all Californians and chasing retailers out of the state.
- Bring back incentives and accountability that are needed for individuals to get into necessary drug treatment and job training programs -- helping them begin new lives. Currently those arrested multiple times for hard drug use currently have no incentive to choose treatment with no consequences.

For more information, go to www.CASafeCommunities.com.