



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

June 2, 2014

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1014 (Skinner)

Dear Assemblymember Skinner:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, an Oakland-based violence prevention and intervention organization, I am writing in support of AB 1014, which will provide families and law enforcement with new legal tools for temporarily restricting the ability of individuals who pose a significant risk of personal injury to themselves or others to possess firearms.

Family members and people close to us often see the warning signs when individuals are a danger to themselves or others. In some cases, however, existing state law does not provide a mechanism to limit the loved one's access to firearms while help or treatment (i.e. mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, or anger management) is sought. The recent shootings in Santa Barbara, after the parents of the disturbed young man desperately tried but failed to get help before their son's killing spree, are a tragic example of why families in crisis need more legal options.

AB 1014, modeled on our state's domestic violence restraining order laws, provides family members and law enforcement with important new legal tools. Similar to existing laws in Connecticut, Indiana, and Texas, AB 1014 allows for the removal of firearms from individuals who are at risk for committing acts of violence. It establishes a process for obtaining a Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) from a court in order to temporarily limit (for one year, unless renewed) the individual's access to firearms when there are warning signs or indications that the person is at risk for violence.

Thank you for authoring AB 1014, an important measure for protecting loved ones and the public from the danger of gun violence.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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