



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

September 19, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1131 (Skinner) – Mental Health and Firearms  
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a national leader in youth violence prevention and federal technical assistance provider for hospitals and communities seeking to reduce gun injuries, I respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 1131 (Skinner). AB 1131, regarding mental health and firearms, is an important measure that improves public safety while protecting the rights of gun owners.

AB 1131 extends the time period from six months to five years during which a person who makes a serious threat of physical violence against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims is prohibited from purchasing or owning a firearm in California. This change allows adequate time for both treatment of the person who makes the threat and protection of the victim. At the same time, AB 1131 provides a clear and fair mechanism for a prohibited person to petition a court for the return of his or her firearm(s).

AB 1131 also requires mental health information to be transmitted by hospitals and courts to DOJ by electronic means and defines clear deadlines for them to do so. These changes will expedite reporting of mental health information and improve the accuracy of information in DOJ's databases used for law enforcement purposes, such as conducting firearm background checks and disarming prohibited persons.

Finally, AB 1131 clarifies that existing rules for the return, transfer, or destruction of firearms – including the requirement of a background check before returning a firearm and the ability of an owner to sell his or her firearm – apply to firearms seized from persons who are mentally ill and potentially dangerous.

For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! urges your signature on AB 1131, an important measure that will protect the safety of the public and also the rights of gun owners.

Signed,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

cc: June Clark, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner

Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.

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