



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

March 21, 2014

Assemblymember Luis Alejo  
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YOUTH ALIVE!  
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**Re: AB 1609 (Alejo): Enforcement of Interstate Gun Trafficking Laws—SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Alejo:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention organization, I write in support of AB 1609 which will give state law enforcement the tools to enforce federal law and further deter illegal and reckless firearm conduct. By adding section 27585 to the Penal Code, state law will require that a firearm purchased out-of-state by a California resident, for transport into California, must go through an instate dealer, which is the same procedure for a wholly instate transaction.

AB 1609 reflects a number of concerns that have been raised regarding the State's ability under current state code to regulate the activities of California residents going outside of California, acquiring ownership of firearms, and then physically bringing them back into the state. It is agreed that this importation conduct violates current federal law, but there are ambiguities as to the state's jurisdictional authority. That includes background checks, the waiting period, registration, possession of a handgun safety certificate, among other requirements. Currently, it's unclear if this also violates state law. AB 1609 clarifies that it does.

In the governor's proposed budget, the Department of Justice is set to receive funds to conduct investigations to prevent illegal gun trafficking at in-state and out-of-state gun shows in accordance with state and federal law. This bill will give the Attorney General the additional tools to investigate this illegal gun trafficking behavior.

According to data provided on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives website, approximately 59 - 65% of guns seized in California are either untraceable (i.e. not registered in the state) or registered outside the state. These guns were brought into the state illegally, and were used either in a crime or found during a criminal investigation. AB 1609 seeks to deter individuals from breaking the law and to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director  
Youth ALIVE!

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