February 8, 2019

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel

California State Capitol P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94293

Re: Assembly Bill 165 (Gabriel) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Gabriel,

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a national leader in addressing gun violence and Oakland’s anchor organization for violence prevention, intervention and healing, we are proud to support Assembly Bill 165 (Gabriel) to develop and implement a training course on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) for law enforcement officers.

Even with the toughest gun laws in the country, California has still had the most deaths in the nation from mass shootings since 1982, with 128. Recent national tragedies in Thousand Oaks and Pittsburgh have shown the need to continue reinforcing on our gun safety laws.

GVROs are a critical tool to allow family members to work with law enforcement and the courts to prevent gun violence and shootings in California’s communities. Law enforcement officials across the state have spoken extensively on the use of GVROs to prevent potential tragedies. In one example, the San Diego City Attorney’s Office successfully executed a GVRO on a car dealership employee, preventing him from returning to work with a semi-automatic rifle with significant killing capability.

Examples like this highlight the importance of GVROs as a tool for law enforcement to prevent incidents of gun violence. However, there is no statewide requirement for law enforcement to be trained on their usage. This gap must be filled and AB 165 will take the necessary steps to educate all officers on the process for issuing these restraining orders. Proper execution of these orders will help officers maintain safety in these potentially dangerous situations.

Effective execution of GVROs is a proven preventative tactic that saves lives and training for all officers must be urgently prioritized. This bill ensures that all of our law enforcement officials have the training needed to file GVROs when they feel public safety is at risk.

For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! supports AB 165.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks

Executive Director