



PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND DEVELOPING YOUTH LEADERS

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Philip Ting
California State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 2607 (Ting)

Dear Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing in support of AB 2607 (Ting) to help prevent the escalating number of gun tragedies occurring throughout the state.

Youth ALIVE! is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1726: Accounting for Health and Education in API Demographics Act (AHEAD Act). Youth ALIVE! is a violence prevention and intervention organization that helps young people become leaders and advocates for the change they would like to see in their communities through our Teens on Target Program, mentors and supports healing for young people who have been violently injured through our Caught in the Crossfire program, and works with families grieving in the wake of a homicide through our Khadafy Washington Project.

Existing law, AB 1014 (Skinner, Chapter 872, 2014), was modeled after California's domestic violence restraining order procedures and authorized a law enforcement officer or an immediate family member to petition the court to issue a Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) prohibiting dangerous persons from having a firearm and purchasing new ones. AB 1014 allowed for the removal of firearms from individuals who are at risk for committing acts of violence

AB 2607 logically amends existing law to enable an employer, a coworker, a mental health worker, or an employee of a high school or college to request the courts to issue a GVRO from a person having in his/her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition.

Family members, co-workers, employers, teachers, and mental health workers are the most likely to see early warning signs if someone is becoming a danger to themselves or others. In these circumstances, existing law enables family members and law enforcement to prevent gun-related tragedies before they happen by pursuing a gun violence restraining order (GVRO) in court. If granted by a court, a GVRO results in a temporary seizure of firearms possessed by the dangerous individual and a prohibition of their ability to purchase new firearms.

Thank you for authoring AB 2607, an important measure for protecting loved ones and the public from the danger of gun violence.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Anne Marks]

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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