



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

May 23, 2013

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0059  
Fax: (916) 319-2159

**RE: AB 549 (Jones-Sawyer) Ensuring the Safety of Students through Positive School  
Climates — SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer:

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 write to express support for Assembly Bill 549. With 21 years of violence education, prevention, and intervention, Youth ALIVE! supports positive school climates.

AB 549 requires schools and school districts to better define the role of adults on campus including teachers, counselors, administrators, and police officers within their school safety plans. It will also require schools and school districts to prioritize funding for school counselors and administrators before police officers.

We want our youth to feel safe and supported and this legislation seeks to ensure that by allowing schools to prioritize the educational and social needs of students. Safety and wellbeing in a learning environment requires a sense of connection and trust between students and adults; increasing the number of counselors and administrators can help to foster that connection.

Additionally, this bill requires that roles and responsibilities of law enforcement on and off campus be clearly defined and made public and that the roles and responsibilities of all adults on campus be clearly defined.

AB 549 will help to foster healthy learning environments where students can feel safe and supported. Please consider my support for AB 549 and help to create healthier schools for Oakland and all of California.

Signed,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

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