



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

March 18, 2013

The Honorable Roger Dickinson  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007

**RE: AB 761 (Dickinson) CalPERS/CalSTRS: Firearms Divestment**

Dear Assemblymember Roger Dickinson:

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 761. Gun violence, and the threat of gun violence, is a stressor that our youth live with daily, and AB 761 would prevent tax money from supporting the firearms markets that feed that stress.

AB 761 seeks to prohibit CalPERS and CalSTRS from investing tax supported pension funds in companies that manufacture firearms and prohibits any further investment in such entities. At a time when the state's public treasury struggles to supply funding to cover CalPERS and CalSTRS' retirement and health care cost liabilities, it is inconsistent public policy to allow those taxpayer supported pension funds to be invested in companies that are responsible for producing weapons that are implicated in violent acts and which are a drain on that same public treasury.

The costs of gun violence are a significant toll on public taxpayer money and pouring more taxpayer money into such endeavors is bad policy. Divesting from companies that manufacture, sell, distribute or market firearms and ammunition is the right thing to do and AB 761 will make it standard practice for our largest state pension funds.

Signed,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

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