



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

March 19, 2014

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0007

RE: AB 1964 (Dickinson) Unsafe Handguns- Single Shot Exemption — SUPPORT

Assemblymember Dickinson,

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention program, I write to express support for Assembly Bill 1964, which closes a loophole that allows any person to purchase an “unsafe handgun” if it was modified to be a single shot weapon prior to the buyer taking delivery. These modifications are easily undone after the sale of the gun, returning the weapon to its illegal configuration. This loophole makes California less safe.

Existing law provides that no “unsafe handgun” may be manufactured or sold in California by a licensed dealer. Since the enactment of the Unsafe Handgun law the statute has been amended a number of times to add exemptions. One of the most significant loopholes allows a person to purchase a handgun without a semiautomatic reload of a bullet in the firing chamber even if the handgun is considered by the Department of Justice as unsafe.

Beginning in 2010, the number of unsafe single shot handguns purchased and registered skyrocketed from 1,100 in 2009 to more than 18,000 of these weapons purchased in 2013 alone. This jump coincides with the enactment of new handgun safety requirements. In essence, more people are using the exemption to acquire guns they would otherwise be unable to legally purchase.

Buyers have learned that altering a semi-automatic handgun so that it becomes a single shot handgun can be easily undone, returning it to its original illegal configuration.

AB 1964 will eliminate the exemption for shingle shot handguns in the state Unsafe Handgun law and will ensure that all handguns purchased through a dealer are handguns with meet all safety and firing tests and contain all state required handgun safety features.

I support AB 1964 Unsafe Handguns- Single Shot Exemption; it will help make California safer.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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