



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

February 24, 2016

Senator Lois Wolk
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1006 (Wolk) UC Firearm Violence Research Center – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing to express strong support of SB 1006 (Wolk). 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.

Every day, gun violence destroys lives, families and communities. From 2002 to 2013, California lost 38,576 individuals to gun violence. In 2013 alone, guns were used to kill 2,900 Californians, including 251 children and teens. That year, at least 6,035 others were hospitalized or treated in emergency rooms for non-fatal gunshot wounds, including 1,275 children and teens. The toll on California is huge and it could be reduced.

Please support a violence research center that would address the nature of firearm violence; individual and societal determinants of risk for involvement in firearm violence, whether as a victim or a perpetrator; the individual, community, and societal consequences of firearm violence; and the prevention and treatment of firearm violence. Research done by such a center would serve all of California by conducting research with a mission to provide the scientific evidence on which sound firearm violence prevention policies and programs can be based and would work on a continuing basis with policy makers in the California Legislature and state agencies to identify, implement, and evaluate innovative firearm violence prevention policies and programs.

I urge you to support SB 1006 (Wolk) and make California safer and to once again lead the nation in best practices in violence prevention. Youth ALIVE!'s work is steeped in the aftermath experienced by people injured by guns and those left to grieve after homicides. We know the damage gun violence can do to people and their communities and we are always searching out the best way to prevent that violence from happening, or from happening again. Please support SB 1006 to create a Violence Research Center to make our work easier and give it farther reach.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.

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