

March 19, 2014

Senator Kevin De Leon State Capitol, Room 5108 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 53 (De Leon) Ammunition Regulation — SUPPORT

Dear Senator De Leon:

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 Senate Bill 53. Gun violence, including the 91 homicides in Oakland last year, is a stressor that our youth live with daily, and which SB 53 will help to curb by focusing on ammunition.

Ammunition sales are virtually unregulated in California. There is currently no way to prevent individuals who, under existing law, are prohibited from purchasing firearms and ammunition from buying ammunition. SB 53 will require vendors to be licensed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) licensing and that they submit information regarding any sale, including the buyers' identification to the DOJ. This information will allow the DOJ to cross-reference the purchase with the Prohibited Armed Persons File to identify illegally armed people buying ammunition.

SB 53 will require fingerprint-based background check for anyone wishing to purchase ammunition. Vendors will be required to verify that the purchaser is not a felon using a centralized list of authorized purchasers. Finally, SB 53 will clarify previous legislation by making the requirements apply to all ammunition.

Senate Bill 53 will reduce easy access to ammunition by minors, criminals, and other prohibited persons and will give law enforcement a tool to find and remove illegal guns and disarm dangerous prohibited persons. Thank you for considering my support of SB 53, Ammunition Regulation.

Signed,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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