



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 4, 2013

The Honorable Ron Calderon
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 552 (Calderon) Violence Awareness — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Calderon:

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 552. With 21 years of violence education, prevention, and intervention, behind us, Youth ALIVE! and the young people we work with know that violence is preventable and that young people can be advocates of change rather than victims of violence. Education is an important ingredient to make that happen.

School is a place for learning and provides a unique opportunity to teach students about violence and its root causes, while at the same time helping to fortify youth against those causes. Youth already learn about violence, at best in the media and at worst in their own neighborhoods. Creating avenues in schools that teach about violence using a Trauma Informed approach - being mindful of the impacts of violence on thinking and behavior and committing to not re-traumatize people for showing symptoms of trauma- can help to stem the tide of violence in many communities.

Youth ALIVE!'s Teens on Target (TNT) program has used this educational method for 21 years. Each year we train high school students on a six session violence prevention curriculum. Student leaders then teach that curriculum to students at other schools. We have seen success with our students and SB 552 can help to extend that benefit to youth across the state of California. Please consider my support for SB 522 and help to create a safer Oakland and a safer California.

Signed,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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

YOUTH ALIVE!
3300 Elm Street
Oakland, Ca 94609
Tel: (510) 594-2588
Fax: (510) 594-0667
mail@youthalive.org
www.youthalive.org

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