



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

April 16, 2015

Honorable Lois Wolk
Member of the Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 707 No Concealed Weapons on Campus

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention program, I write to express support for Senate Bill 707. Working with the survivors of gun violence and the families of those lost to gun violence, Youth ALIVE! is acutely aware of the disastrous impact guns have in California.

In recent years there has been a disturbing increase in the number of active short incidents on school, college, and university campuses across the country, with 42 such incidents in 2014. In response to this, some gun enthusiasts are encouraging students and teachers to carry concealed weapons on campus. A study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that the odds of an assault victim being shot and the odds of being killed were much greater if a person carried a gun.

California law provides that the authority over school safety belongs with school/campus authorities. SB 707 maintains that authority and allows school officials to prohibit firearms on campus as they deem appropriate. This bill will close gaps in the Gun Free School Safety Act of 1995. Under that act, although firearms are generally prohibited on school or college campuses, certain persons with permission to carry a concealed weapon are permitted on campus, irrespective of the wishes of campus officials.

It is an unhappy reality that active shooter incidents take place disproportionately on school and college campuses. Senate Bill 707 reduces risk of future active shooter incidents by reducing the number of firearms that may legally be brought onto a campus.

Senate Bill 707 places control over campus safety issues where it ought to be: with campus governing entities, rather than giving an unqualified right for persons with concealed weapons permits to have unfettered campus access. We support Senate Bill 707: No Concealed Weapons on Campus.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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