



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Isadore Hall, III
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 880 (Hall/Glazer) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hall:

On behalf of the Members of Youth ALIVE!, I am writing to express our strong support of SB 880 (Hall/Glazer). 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.

SB 880 closes the “bullet button loophole” by redefining assault weapons to include military-style semi-automatic firearms with the capacity to accept a detachable ammunition magazine, requiring such weapons to be registered with the Department of Justice (DOJ), and prohibiting the future sale, purchase, or possession of such weapons in California.

For years, gun owners have been able to circumvent California’s assault weapon laws by using a small tool to quickly eject and reload ammunition magazines. Bullet button-equipped weapons are functionally the same as illegal assault weapons, but not included in the prohibition because a tool is required to release the magazine, and it cannot technically be released by hand.

These types of modifications have no legitimate use for sport hunters or competitive shooters. Such weapons have been used in a number of recent gun attacks including the recent terrorist attack in San Bernardino that left 14 Californians dead and 21 injured.

SB 880 clarifies the definition of assault weapons and provides the DOJ the authority to bring existing regulations into conformity with the original intent of California’s Assault Weapon Ban. Absent this bill, military-style firearms will continue to proliferate in our neighborhoods.

Youth ALIVE!’s work is steeped in the aftermath experienced by people injured by guns and the 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. Youth ALIVE! supports SB 880.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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