



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!
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March 7, 2019

The Honorable Marc Levine
Capitol Office, Room 5135
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support for AB 18 (Levine) – Firearms: Excise Tax

Dear Assemblymember Levine:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE! and our constituency of youth and families personally impacted by violence, we are pleased to support AB 18, the Firearms Excise Tax. The AB 18 tax revenue would add funds to the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP), a program that is core ally and active funding source for our violence intervention services.

Youth ALIVE! is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an alliance to treat violence as a public health crisis and developing young leaders in the process. Youth ALIVE! has been invested in serving Oakland communities historically plagued by gun violence. Tasked as one of Oakland’s primary anchors in serving victims of violent crime, Youth ALIVE! has maintained a successful track record of implementing evidence-based violence intervention and prevention services.

Violence prevention professionals at Youth ALIVE! achieve transformative results.

- 95% homicide families and victims are reached
- 98% of victims of violent crimes do not return to the hospital with a re-injury
- 90% fewer students felt that a gun made them safer after a Youth ALIVE! workshop

AB 18 is an effort to mobilize innovative and supportive services that can be readily available and accessible for a population affected by violence. With more guns in the United States than the national population we understand the deadly effects of gun violence in America. In 2018, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 340 mass shootings nationwide, claiming more than 13,000 lives. In California, the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation found that from 2014 to 2016, gun homicides increased 18%. While U.S. emergency room visits for gunshot wounds have reached nearly \$2.8 billion per year, hospital violence intervention programs like Youth ALIVE’s Caught in the Crossfire Program are saving hospitals money and lives.

We proudly support AB 18.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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