



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!
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March 8, 2019

Assembly Member Cecelia Aguiar-Curry
State Capitol - Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Joint Resolution 4 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE! and our constituency of youth and families personally impacted by violence, we are pleased to support AJR 4, a bill urging California Legislature to enact House Resolution 8.

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

At Youth ALIVE! we take pride in addressing violence as a public health issue, including offering quality preventative mental health services for youth and families directly affected by gun violence. We aim to bring healing and liberation to traumatized victims, but we also aim to advocate for legislation like AJR 4 and HR 8, that will make or communities safer, more livable and healthy.

AJR 4 would ensure that guns are properly tracked, sold, transferred and handled safely by authorized sellers and new gun purchasers. We can longer wait for the next mass shooting to enact common sense universal background checks. In 2018, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 340 mass shootings nationwide, claiming more than 13,000 lives. HR 8 would help prevent unnecessary tragedies and would resolve any background check loopholes.

We proudly support AJR 4 and HR 8.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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