March 8, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Hill
Senator, 13th District
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 221 - Support

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE! and our constituency of youth and families personally impacted by violence, we are pleased to support SB 221, a bill that would require a law enforcement agency to account for firearms that are owned, acquired, maintained, sold, loaned, lost, stolen from, or in any way possessed.

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

Guns that go unaccounted for and untraceable have affected the population we serve for too long. Emerging weapons such as “ghost guns”, are known to bypass traditional methods of firearm safety and gun purchase accountability. SB 221 would add a tremendous protective layer of safety, transparency and accountability. Our violence prevention professionals at Youth ALIVE! are committed to mediating conflicts and reducing gun violence, but unaccounted for firearms remains a continuous barrier in reducing gun violence. In effort to promote safer communities and transparent gun ownership, a sufficient system proposed in SB 221 would help eliminate thousands of lost or stolen firearms.

We proudly support SB 221.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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