



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!  
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March 20, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gipson  
District 64, California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0064

**HONORARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS  
Actor

HON. BARBARA LEE  
United States Representative

**Re: AB 879 - Support**

Dear Assemblymember Gipson:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE! and our constituency of youth and families personally impacted by violence, we are pleased to support AB 879, State Background Checks for Firearm Frames and Receivers. AB 879 would expand background checks to trace firearm parts that continue to be overlooked and untraceable. This bill comes at a time when we are in critical need of a legitimate solution to help close the ghost gun loop hole. Part of preventing violence is tracing firearms of all types and parts, with an intention to create a dependable system of firearm purchase accountability and safety.

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

The population we serve at Youth ALIVE!, communities throughout California and across our nation deserve advanced safety. AB 879 would require an extra layer of safety, accountability, tracing, and violence prevention. In July of 2018, an undercover federal agent successfully purchased 20 untraceable self-assembled assault rifles. We must refuse to be outsmarted by the ghost gun market by shielding our communities with progressive firearm background checks and policies. The complexity of tracing self-assembled firearms must be addressed strategically; and AB 879 is a reliable foundation to help disrupt the mass market ghost guns.

We proudly support AB 879.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

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