



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!  
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September 18, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
California State Capitol, Room 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

HONORARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS  
Actor

HON. BARBARA LEE  
United States Representative

**Re: Request for Signature – AB 879: Ghost Gun Background Checks - Support**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Governor Newsom:

ALISA DEWYS  
Consultant  
Resources Global Professionals  
San Francisco, CA

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” loophole. 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.

VAL HEAD  
Support Services Administrator  
Hospital Administration  
Zuckerberg San Francisco  
General Hospital  
San Francisco, CA

ANGELA JENKINS  
Public Affairs Director  
East Bay Area  
Kaiser Permanente  
Oakland, CA

Youth ALIVE! is an Oakland-based, nationally recognized nonprofit organization known for treating 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.

CAITLIN LANG  
Principal & Owner  
Liquid Form Design  
Oakland, CA

MICHAEL NIETO  
Assistant District Attorney  
Alameda County  
District Attorney’s Office  
Oakland, CA

Violence prevention professionals at Youth ALIVE! achieve transformative results.

KRISTA REINHARD  
Marketing Consultant  
Oakland, CA

- 95% homicide families and victims are reached
- 98% of victims of violent crimes do not return to the hospital with a re-injury
- 90% of students in our workshops no longer believe a gun makes them safer

SIARA SPRIGGS  
Claims Authorizer  
Social Security Administration  
Richmond, CA

The community we serve at Youth ALIVE!, as well as 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 market for ghost guns.

LA'BAN WADE II  
Housing Coordinator  
UC Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA

STAN WEISNER, PH.D.  
Director  
Behavioral & Biological Sciences  
UC Berkeley Extension  
Berkeley, CA

For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! proudly supports AB 879.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sincerely,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

ANNE C. MARKS  
Executive Director  
Youth ALIVE!  
Oakland, CA