



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!
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May 12, 2020

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
California State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94293

Re: AB 2617 (Gabriel) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Gabriel,

Youth ALIVE! is proud to support AB 2617 to ensure Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) issued by other states are upheld in California.

Youth ALIVE! is a nationally recognized community-based organization dedicated to reducing gun violence. Tasked as Oakland’s anchor organization for violence prevention, intervention, and healing, our successful track record of implementing evidence-based violence intervention and prevention services informs our support of AB 2617.

From 2000 to 2015, there were 24,922 firearm homicides and 23,682 firearm suicides in California. GVROs are a key tool to prevent these tragedies by temporarily removing firearms from those most at risk. The ability to enforce these orders and similar orders from other states, however, stops at the state’s border. While California has recognized specific protective orders from other states, like Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, the authority to enforce GVROs issued by other states remains absent. This means that individuals who have been found by a court to pose a dangerous risk of gun violence are able to elude a restraining order by moving or travelling to California.

Thirty-five percent of guns traced by law enforcement in California come from out-of-state. When individuals who purchase weapons from out-of-state or have been identified in other states as posing a risk to public safety are able to avoid restriction by entering California, it is essential that our law enforcement is empowered to enforce out-of-state orders.

During this time of uncertainty and fear, gun violence has remained a major concern. Gun sales throughout the country have skyrocketed as many states and localities issue stay-at-home orders. In March, nearly 2 million guns¹ were sold across the country. This is the largest spike in gun sales since January 2013, after President Obama’s reelection and the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

In addition to the rise of gun sales, gun violence has risen despite stay-at-home orders. While many types of crime have dropped considerably, in some cities firearm deaths in March and April were higher than they have been in the last three years.²

This bill would make it an offense to possess a firearm in violation of a protective order issued by another state. AB 2617 would also ensure law enforcement agencies file GVROs

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/01/business/coronavirus-gun-sales.html>

² <https://www.thetrace.org/2020/04/coronavirus-gun-violence-stay-at-home-orders/>

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in a timely manner with local courts so that the Judicial Council of California can file notice of the GVRO hearing with the restrained party. The effectiveness of GVROs and similar protective orders in other states shows that it is imperative to ensure that law enforcement is able to enforce these orders regardless of where a person travels.

For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! supports AB 2617.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Marks", is written over a faint, light blue grid background.

Anne Marks
Executive Director