



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

January 26, 2016

Assemblymember Chiu  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

**Re: AB 1663 (Chiu) Require Semi-Automatic Rifles to Have Fixed Ammunition Magazines**

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

Youth ALIVE! is a violence prevention and intervention organization that helps young people become leaders and advocates for the change they would like to see in their communities through our Teens on Target Program, mentors and supports healing for young people who have been violently injured through our Caught in the Crossfire program, and works with families grieving in the wake of a homicide through our Khadafy Washington Project.

A national leader in youth violence prevention and federal technical assistance provider for hospitals and communities seeking to reduce gun injuries, we support AB 1663 and implore you to require semi-automatic rifles to have fixed ammunition magazines.

AB 1663 would strengthen California's existing assault weapons ban and close the "bullet button" loophole by requiring semi-automatic rifles sold or transferred in California to be manufactured with ammunition magazines that cannot be detached. Fixed magazines prevent the rapid reloading that increases the lethality of horrific mass shootings like the one in San Bernardino last December.

This loophole enables a firearm owner to use a bullet or other pointed object to quickly detach and replace a weapon's ammunition magazine, converting a semi-automatic rifle into an assault weapon. Although California has some of the strictest gun laws in country, gun manufacturers have become experts in exploiting loopholes. This legislation aims to end that practice.

Youth ALIVE!'s work is steeped in the aftermath experienced by people injured by guns and the left to grieve after homicides. We know the damage gun violence can do to people and their communities and we are always searching out the best way to prevent that violence from happening, or from happening again. Youth ALIVE! supports AB 1664. Please remove the bullet button loophole in the assault weapon ban.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

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

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