



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 169 (Dickinson) Unsafe Handguns — SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention organization, is requesting that you sign AB 169 (Dickinson), pertaining to Unsafe Handguns. Fifteen years ago, California enacted a law to prohibit the purchase and ownership transfer of “unsafe handguns” - handguns which do not have requisite safety devices, do not meet specified firing tests, or do not meet a drop safety test. The law was designed to reduce the proliferation of cheap handguns and to discourage the sale of more sophisticated handguns that do not include specified safety devices, such as a chamber load indicator.

Since the enactment of the Unsafe Handgun law, the statute has been amended to add exemptions. As more exemptions were added, legal loopholes grew which have seriously diminished the effectiveness of the law. Today, trade of “unsafe handguns” has re-emerged, along with the safety concerns that prompted the original law.

AB 169 is intended to close some of the loopholes and restore protections established by the law. There are three principle components to the bill:

1. The bill closes a loophole that allows any person to purchase an “unsafe handgun” if it was modified to be a single shot weapon prior to the buyer taking delivery. These modifications are easily undone, returning the weapon to its original illegal configuration.
2. The bill limits transfers of “unsafe handguns” by one private party to another private party through a licensed dealer to only two per year. While private parties may legally own an “unsafe handgun”, having acquired it prior to the enactment of the unsafe handgun law or acquiring it under one of the many exemptions in the law.
3. The bill preserves the right of trained law enforcement to buy and own an “unsafe handgun”, but limits their transfer of the guns’ ownership to only other trained law enforcement officers.

The changes AB 169 makes to California’s “Unsafe Handgun Law” will help restore some of the handgun protections originally intended by the law, please sign it.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

cc: Assemblymember Roger Dickinson
Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.

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