



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 445-2527

**RE: SB 299 (DeSaulnier) Lost or Stolen Firearms — SUPPORT**

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, a national leader in youth violence prevention and federal technical assistance provider for hospitals and communities seeking to reduce gun injuries, I write to express support for Senate Bill 299. Gun violence, and the threat of gun violence, is a stressor that our youth live with daily, and which SB299 will help to curb. SB 299 seeks to improve public safety by requiring that every person whose firearm is lost or stolen notify local law enforcement within 48 hours of the time the person knew or reasonably should have known that their firearm had been lost or stolen.

SB 299 would provide a tool for law enforcement to detect firearms trafficking and charge criminals who engage in it. A 2011 nationwide poll found that 94% of American surveyed, including 94% of gun owners, favor laws to require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. A requirement to report lost or stolen firearms would assist in the identification and prosecution of “straw buyers”, individuals who purchase guns legally, then sell them to people who cannot legally purchase firearms such as gang members, criminals, or minors. A reporting requirement would likewise assist in the prosecution of armed criminals who falsely claim that a crime gun traced to them was lost or stolen when it was used in crime.

SB 299 would help law enforcement efforts to disarm individuals who possess a firearm and subsequently become prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing firearms because of falling into a prohibited class. When law enforcement attempts to recover these illegal firearms, gun owners may falsely claim that the gun was lost or stolen. A reporting requirement would improve the efficiency and implementation of the state’s Armed and Prohibited Persons System Program, in which law enforcement agencies work to proactively disarm prohibited individuals before they harm themselves or others.

Finally, SB 299 would alert law enforcement to the existence of a stolen gun in their jurisdictions and facilitate the return of stolen firearms. The recovery of stolen guns protects communities and reduces gun violence. Thank you for considering my support of SB 299, Lost or Stolen Firearms.

Signed,

Anne Marks  
Executive Director

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

YOUTH ALIVE!  
3300 Elm Street  
Oakland, Ca 94609  
Tel: (510) 594-2588  
Fax: (510) 594-0667  
[mail@youthalive.org](mailto:mail@youthalive.org)  
[www.youthalive.org](http://www.youthalive.org)

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