



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Isadore Hall, III
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SJR 20 (Hall) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hall:

On behalf of the Members of the Youth ALIVE!, I am writing to express our strong support of SJR 20 (Hall).

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.

Every day, gun violence destroys lives, families and communities. From 2002 to 2013, California lost 38,576 individuals to gun violence. In 2013 alone, guns were used to kill 2,900 Californians, including 251 children and teens. That year, at least 6,035 others were hospitalized or treated in emergency rooms for non-fatal gunshot wounds, including 1,275 children and teens.

Since 1996, and in spite of these staggering numbers, the United States Congress has continually adopted annual policy riders known as the “Dickey Amendment” and “Rehberg Amendment.” These riders have effectively prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other agencies, from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health.

SJR 20 (Hall) urges the United States Congress to promptly lift the prohibition on publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds to the CDC and other relevant agencies falling under the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Federal research is crucial to saving lives from motor vehicle accidents, sudden infant death syndrome, lead poisoning and countless other public crises. It is time for Congress to end the prohibition on publicly funded research, and treat gun violence as the public health crisis that it is.

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. Please support SJR 20.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

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

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