



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

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July 8, 2020

Assemblymember David Chiu  
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Fax: (916) 319-2117

**RE: Support for AB 2847 (Chiu)**

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

Youth ALIVE! is writing in support of your Assembly Bill 2847. AB 2847 strengthens California's Unsafe Handgun Act (UHA) to ensure that new firearms are introduced that incorporate microstamping technology and comply with the UHA's other safety requirements.

Youth ALIVE! is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an alliance to treat violence as a public health crisis and developing young leaders in the process. Tasked as Oakland's anchor organization for violence prevention, intervention, and healing, Youth ALIVE! has maintained a successful track record of implementing evidence-based violence intervention and prevention services. Serving the families of homicide victims through our Khadafy Washington Project informs our support for bills like AB 2847 that would allow law enforcement to more accurately solve shootings and gun homicides. These measures not only bring the families greater closure after losing their loved ones, they also improve policing practices by focusing on hard evidence instead of relying on rumors or profiling innocent bystanders.

In 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation to strengthen the UHA. AB 1471 (Feuer) required all new semiautomatic pistol models to incorporate microstamping technology, which imprints a microscopic array of characters unique to that firearm on bullet cartridge casings when the weapon is fired. This technology could enable law enforcement to match cartridges found at crime scenes directly to the gun that fired them, similar to the way law enforcement can use an automobile's license plate to identify the vehicle's make, model, VIN, and registered owner. In cities across the nation, large majorities of fatal and non-fatal shootings go unsolved by law enforcement, encouraging cycles of retaliatory violence instead.

Since microstamping requirements only apply to new handgun models, the gun industry has effectively boycotted this law (as well as other new requirements of the UHA) by refusing to develop new handgun models for sale in California. So far, no firearm manufacturer has submitted a handgun for certification to DOJ that incorporates microstamping technology. Importantly, while the gun industry and

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activists have asserted that they do not have the capacity to microstamp cartridges from two places on the interior of a firearm (as required under AB 1471), they have conceded that they are able to do so from one place.

AB 2847 eases compliance by requiring that newly developed semiautomatic pistol models etch microstamping characters on one place on the interior of the firearm, as opposed to two. Additionally, AB 2847 furthers implementation of the new UHA requirements by directing the Attorney General to remove three previously grandfathered handgun models from the roster for each new compliant handgun model that is introduced.

For these reasons, Youth ALIVE! is pleased to support AB 2847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Marks", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Anne Marks  
Executive Director