



PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AND DEVELOPING  
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!  
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March 8, 2022

Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
Legislative Office Building, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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ANNE MARKS  
Executive Director  
Youth ALIVE!  
Oakland, CA

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1842 (Rodriguez): Firearms: restocking fee.

Dear Chairman Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I write in support of AB 1842, a measure that would limit return-related fees a firearm dealer may charge if the buyer decides to cancel the purchase within the mandated 10-day waiting period. While our organization works to address the demand for guns in our community, we need common-sense legislation to create a responsible framework for gun suppliers to conduct business.

Youth ALIVE! is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an international 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. Our decades of experience serving victims of gun violence, and helping community members recognize and avoid situations that have the potential to lead to gun violence, informs our support of AB 1842.

Existing law restricts a licensed firearm dealer from transferring a firearm within 10 days of the application to purchase. This 10-day waiting period allows the Department of Justice to conduct background checks to determine if the purchaser is eligible to own or possess firearms. According to Giffords Law Center, the cooling-off period also prevents thoughtless acts of gun violence, including suicide, by delaying the instant access to firearms.

Studies have shown the cooling-off period reduces rates of firearm suicide by 7-11% and homicide by roughly 17%. Therefore, firearm dealers should not deter individuals who decide to return a firearm by charging excessive fees after purchasers have had time to reconsider their purchase. This bill is a step forward in promoting public safety to protect our local communities from more senseless gun violence.

At Youth ALIVE!, our Violence Interrupters use their credibility in the streets to defuse tense situations and mediate conflicts that were likely to become violent. These types of interventions are based on the belief that we can create peace by providing incentives to individuals who are likely to commit violence, and educate them on the ways that obtaining and carrying firearms is not in their best interest.



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However, the exorbitant fees firearm dealers can charge a purchaser who decides to cancel their orders is antithetical to this belief. These high fees create an incentive for individuals to follow through with the purchase, which puts them and others around them at more risk of firearm injury, or to attempt to illegally sell the firearm to recoup their funds. Allowing these excessive fees to continue is counterintuitive to our collective goals of preventing shootings and firearm injuries, and making sure guns do not get into the wrong hands.

For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 1842 and respectfully request your AYE vote on this important public safety measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Marks".

Anne Marks  
Executive Director