



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

YOUTH ALIVE!
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March 3, 2022

Senate Committee on Public Safety
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

**HONORARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS
Actor

HON. BARBARA LEE
United States Representative

**YOUTH
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

JACKIE MOLINA
Castlemont High School

KALIYAH THOMAS
Fremont High School

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 228 (Rodriguez): Firearms.

Dear Chair Bradford:

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STAN WEISNER, PH.D.
Director
Behavioral & Biological Sciences
UC Berkeley Extension
Berkeley, CA

On behalf of Youth ALIVE!, I write in support of AB 228, a measure that would require the Department of Justice to conduct inspections of federal firearm licensees at least every three years to ensure compliance with firearm laws. While we work 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 228.

Although the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is primarily responsible for conducting firearm dealer inspections, data has revealed their limited resources have resulted in inspections once every seven to ten years. Current law permits, but does not require, the State of California Department of Justice to conduct inspections of federal firearm licensees to ensure compliance with firearm laws. These inspections are critical to ensure firearms are not diverted into the illegal market and become a danger to our local communities.

Despite local advocacy in Oakland that successfully resulted in there being no gun stores within city limits, firearms still flood the streets of our community. Data shows that 90% of crime guns (guns used in the commission of a crime, or in the possession of individuals who are legally restricted from purchasing or owning a firearm) are sold by just 5% of gun dealers. These numbers point to a larger systemic failure to enforce the firearm laws we already have on the books, and a culture amongst irresponsible dealers that assumes impunity from these laws. With regular inspections, the state can ensure firearm dealers are adhering to commonsense laws intended to keep our communities safe and prevent firearms from ending up in the hands of a prohibited person.

EMERITUS

HON. NANCY SKINNER
Senator
California State Legislature
Oakland, CA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNE MARKS
Executive Director
Youth ALIVE!
Oakland, CA



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For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 228 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