



California State Sheriffs' Association

Organization Founded by the Sheriffs in 1894

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General Counsel

March 10, 2016

“The Safety for All” Newsom Ballot Measure Committee
c/o Thomas A. Willis
Remcho, Johansen & Purcell, LLP
1127 Eleventh Street, Suite 602
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: twillis@rjp.com

Re: CSSA Opposition to “The Safety for All Act of 2016” Ballot Initiative

Dear Mr. Willis:

On behalf of the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) we wish to inform you of our opposition to “The Safety for All Act of 2016” ballot initiative.

California currently has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, yet gun violence caused by criminals, gang members, and those prohibited from purchasing guns such as the mentally ill continues. California's Sheriffs are supportive of efforts to enforce the numerous laws already on the books against those who would use them against our citizens. We are supportive of domestic violence restraining orders, the existing background checks and waiting periods for purchase of firearms.

Unfortunately, this measure would do little to prevent the criminal element from acquiring guns and ammunition via the black market or through theft. Instead, it would place additional restrictions on law abiding citizens who wish to purchase ammunition for sporting or hunting use, retain guns and magazines that are currently legal for them to possess, and pass historical or family heirloom guns down to their next generation. Effectively, this measure will create a new class of criminals out of those that already comply with common sense practices that now exist.

The focus of efforts to reduce gun violence in this state should be on those responsible for that violence, not those that have no intent to do harm. Thank you for your attention regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

Martin Ryan, CSSA President
Sheriff, Amador County

Gregory J. Ahern, Chair-CSSA Political Action Committee
Sheriff, Alameda County

MR/GJA/cmc

cc: California Sheriffs
Carmen Green, CSSA Executive Director
Martin Mayer, CSSA General Counsel
Cory M. Salzillo, CSSA Legislative Director
Nick Warner, CSSA Policy Director
Asha Harris, CSSA Legislative Representative