



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

STEVE BENNETT, Chair
LINDA PARKS
KATHY I. LONG
PETER C. FOY
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

July 22, 2014

Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Support for Gun Violence Bills AB 1014 (Williams, Skinner) and SB 505 (Jackson)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a position of formally supporting AB 1014 (Williams, Skinner) and SB 505 (Jackson) and Direct County Staff and the County's State Lobbyist to Convey our Position to the State Legislature

DISCUSSION:

In the wake of the Isla Vista mass shooting, our local Assemblymember and State Senator have authored (and coauthored) two important bills to help address the possession of guns by individuals who pose a significant risk of violence to themselves or others.

AB 1014, Assemblymember Das Williams, coauthored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, allows a court to issue an ex parte gun violence restraining order if an affidavit, made in writing and signed by the petitioner under oath, or in an oral statement to the court, and any additional information show good cause that the subject of the petition poses a significant risk of personal injury to himself, herself, or another by purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm, as determined by balancing certain factors described in the bill. Clearly, keeping guns out of the hands of people whom a court has determined are a significant risk to themselves or others is sound public policy.

SB 505 by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson requires, except in exigent circumstances, that a peace officer search the Department of Justice (DOJ) Automated Firearms System (AFS) to determine if a person is the registered owner of a firearm before checking on the welfare or well-being of that person if the check is motivated by a concern that the person may be a danger to others or him- or herself. Senator Jackson notes that in the Isla Vista mass shooting, officers performed a welfare check on the murderer but hadn't checked to see if he was a registered gun owner, and while such a check may not have prevented the subsequent shootings, it may have enabled the authorities to more accurately evaluate the risk that the perpetrator posed. Such registry checks can be performed on-line in under 90 seconds.



Together, these bills will provide important measures toward helping stem the tide of gun violence by disturbed individuals. The ability of family members or professionals to go to court to seek to prohibit individuals from possessing guns when there is significant risk of personal injury is a logical extension of our existing restraining order provisions, while assuring that law enforcement officers are informed of gun ownership by the individuals they contact for welfare checks is another logical measure for the protection of the public and the public safety teams.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bennett".

Steve Bennett,
Supervisor, First District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy I. Long".

Kathy I. Long,
Supervisor, Third District