

AB 2607

Preventing Gun Tragedies

Assemblymember
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19TH DISTRICT



SUMMARY

Family members, co-workers, employers, teachers, and mental health workers are the most likely to see early warning signs if someone is becoming a danger to themselves or others. In these circumstances, existing law enables family members and law enforcement to prevent gun-related tragedies before they happen by pursuing a gun violence restraining order (GVRO) in court. If granted by a court, a GVRO results in a temporary seizure of firearms possessed by the dangerous individual and a prohibition of their ability to purchase new firearms. AB 2607 logically expands who can petition a court for a GVRO by adding co-workers, employers, teachers, and mental health workers.

BACKGROUND

California's laws have reduced the rate of firearm-related deaths by 56% in the past 20 years, however significantly more needs to be done to prevent gun violence from occurring. 57% of adults believe stricter gun laws are important and 62% say the government doesn't do enough to regulate gun access.

Statistics of gun-related deaths demonstrate the need for government to take a more proactive approach to prevent shootings by taking guns away from dangerous people before tragedy strikes.

- An estimated 13,286 people were killed in the US by firearms in 2015 and 26,819 people were injured.
- Between January 2009 and July 2015 there have been at least 133 mass shootings.
- From 2000 to 2013 mass shootings are on the rise, with the majority of them occurring on school campuses and in the workplace.
- Since 2013, there have been at least 165 school shootings in America, an average of nearly one a week, and more young Americans are now dying from guns than car accidents.

- Guns are responsible for over 80% of fatalities that occur in the workplace, and in 2013 alone, there were 316 fatal workplace shootings.
- More than 60% of people in this country who die from guns die by suicide and suicide is the second-most common cause of death for Americans between the ages of 15 and 34.

EXISTING LAW

Modeled after our domestic violence restraining order procedures, AB 1014 (Skinner, Chapter 872, 2014), authorizes a law enforcement officer or an immediate family member to petition the court to issue a GVRO, prohibiting dangerous persons from having a firearm and purchasing new ones. It allows for the removal of firearms from individuals who are at risk for committing acts of violence.

THIS BILL

AB 2607 amends existing law to enable an employer, a coworker, a mental health worker, or an employee of a high school or college to request the courts to issue a GVRO from a person having in his/her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition. The person affected by the order cannot possess or purchase a firearm while the order is in effect, but regains his or her right to possess firearms when the order expires or is revoked by the court.

SUPPORT

California Chapters of the Brady Campaign
California State PTA
Coalition Against Gun Violence, Santa Barbara
Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Women Against Gun Violence
San Francisco District Attorney
Youth Alive

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