

Supporting Assembly Bill 1127 to Stop the Spread of DIY Machine Guns

The gun violence epidemic is a uniquely American issue: according to the nonprofit Brady: United Against Gun Violence, Americans are 26 times more likely to be shot and killed than people in other high-income countries.¹ Every day, 327 people are shot in the United States, ~~and one~~ One in five Americans say they have had a family member who was shot and killed. Tragically, guns remain the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in the United States.² California has long stood out as one of the few states that acknowledges the need for legislation to manage gun use in order to save lives, and as a result, the state has some of the strongest gun laws in America. In 1989, California became the first state to ban assault weapons and is currently one of just 10 states that has made the sale and possession of fully automatic assault weapons illegal.

While assault firearms are illegal in California, semi-automatic weapons are not. And some of these semi-automatic weapons are designed in a way that allows them to be converted into fully automatic assault weapons with the use of a “switch.” The heightened practice of people making DIY, often 3D printed, switch devices to convert semi-automatic weapons into full assault firearms jeopardizes the progress California has

¹ <https://www.bradyunited.org/resources/statistics>

² <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/guns-remain-leading-cause-of-death-for-children-and-teens>

MOTION

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made to curb gun violence. And this practice has grown over the last few years – law enforcement agencies across the United States have reported a 570% increase in seizures of these types of weapons and parts between 2017 and 2021, compared to the previous five years. Despite the immense threat these kinds of guns pose, some gun manufacturers are refusing to modify their gun designs to prevent the easy conversion of these weapons into fully automatic machine guns.

California lawmakers are taking the matter into their own hands by proposing legislation that would address this growing concern. Assembly Bill 1127 (Gabriel) would prohibit licensed firearm dealers from the sale of selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semi-automatic ~~handguns~~ pistols in California that are easily convertible into fully automatic machine guns. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has made it clear that addressing the gun violence epidemic is one of their priorities and should therefore throw their support behind this piece of legislation that could potentially save lives.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors ~~direct~~ direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to ~~advocate~~ in support of Assembly Bill 1127 (Gabriel).

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JH:kc:cc