

June 06, 2023

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Support for AB 28 (Gabriel): Funding for Gun Violence Prevention

As of May 1, at least 13,959 people have died from gun violence in the U.S. this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive - which is an average of roughly 115 deaths each day. Of those who died, 491 were teens and 85 were children. Gun violence prevention programs have proven to be an effective model to curb gun deaths throughout the country, but are often underfunded and under resourced.

In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Break the Cycle of Violence Act that codified the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program to award competitive grants for the purpose of violence intervention and prevention. Since 2007, the Legislature has appropriated funds annually to the California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention program in the State Budget, which was renamed CalVIP in 2017.

The CalVIP program is one of the most cost-efficient community-based violence prevention programs in the state and has continuously proven to be the most effective manner of preventing gun violence. Communities and community-based organizations that received CalVIP funding during the 2018 cycle saw homicides decrease by three times more than those that did not receive CalVIP support. In 2019, these programs helped California reduce gun homicide among the high-risk age group (15-29 years old) to the lowest rate since 1970. However, these

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investments have thus far relied on short-term General Fund commitments. The CalVIP program's funding will sunset on January 1, 2025, with no additional funding stream established.

AB 28 imposes an excise tax in the amount of 11% of gross receipts from the retail sale of a firearm, firearm precursor part, and ammunition. The proceeds will fund gun violence prevention programs, education, school safety, and research. Specifically, funds will be allocated to (pending funds available):

- The CalVIP Grant Program
- The Department of Education to fund school mental health and behavioral services and school safety measures
- The Judicial Council to support court-based firearm relinquishment programs
- The Department of Justice to equitably improve investigations and clearance rates in firearm homicide and firearm assault investigations
- The Office of Emergency Services to provide counseling and trauma-informed support services to direct and secondary victims of mass shootings and other gun homicides
- The Department of Justice to support activities to inform firearm and ammunition purchasers and firearm owners about gun safety laws and responsibilities
- The University of California, Davis, California Firearm Violence Research Center for gun violence research
- Any remaining moneys available will be allocated to fund and support activities and

programs focused on preventing gun violence, supporting victims of gun violence, and otherwise remediating the harmful effects of gun violence.

This bill is not intended to penalize firearm sellers or otherwise discourage lawful firearm sales and commerce, but instead to generate revenue to sustain programs that are targeted and effective at mitigating the harms that firearms and related products too often cause. It will stop shootings, save lives, and make California a better, safer place.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the following:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support Assembly Bill 28 (Gabriel), which would impose an excise tax on firearms and ammunition sold in the state to fund evidence-based gun violence prevention programs, school safety measures, and other initiatives that will help end gun violence in the state of California.
2. Direct the County's Sacramento advocates to take the appropriate legislative advocacy actions to advance this effort.

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