



# SHERIFF

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April 23, 2013

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
Member California State Senate  
California State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Opposition to SB 299**

Dear Senator DeSaulnier,

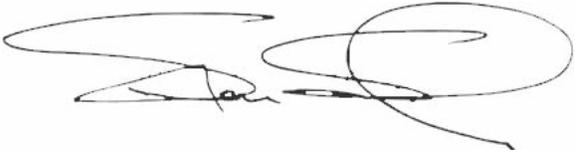
As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I am opposed to SB 299, which would require persons to report the theft or loss of their firearm to local law enforcement within 48 hours of the time it occurred; and report to local law enforcement within 48 hours if the firearm is subsequently recovered.

This bill would place firearm owners in direct jeopardy of criminal prosecution for becoming a victim of a crime, and it flies in the face of everything law enforcement has been taught in community-oriented policing. This bill would place criminal liability on the firearm's owner regardless of whether they knew their firearm was stolen. And it also unfairly impacts many of our ethnic minorities within our population.

Firearm owners normally report their stolen firearms to law enforcement; however, the criminal penalties associated with this bill could cause crime victims to refuse to cooperate with police if their stolen firearm is recovered. A firearm's owner, who was not aware of the legal requirement to report the loss or theft of a firearm and who is contacted by police investigating a crime, could face criminal prosecution for failing to report the firearm as stolen or missing. Such an owner might need to hire a lawyer, who would likely advise them to remain silent while immunity is negotiated, rather than quickly supplying officers with the information they need to properly and promptly investigate a crime.

This bill does nothing to help law enforcement in our community and places our citizens in increased criminal jeopardy, and I must therefore oppose SB 299.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

CC: California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)  
Riverside County Legislative Representatives