



SHERIFF

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The Honorable Leland Yee
Member California State Senate
California State Capitol, Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to SB 47

Dear Senator Yee:

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I oppose SB 47. This bill would redefine an assault weapon to include a rifle having any of the undesirable features that are purely cosmetic, such as a pistol grip or flash suppressor, and a magazine that can be detached, even through use of a with a tool. These "bullet buttons" have been in widespread use in California for a number of years and coupled with our state's ban on all magazines over 10 rounds in capacity, already make any magazine changes very slow and cumbersome. Magazine changes on these same rifles in other states require only a push button, and most states do not limit cartridge capacity.

I oppose this bill because in many ways your bill unreasonably focuses purely on cosmetic features of legitimate sporting, hunting, and recreational firearms already in widespread use throughout our nation. This class of rifle is already the most popular and prolific rifle sold and possessed in the United States.

I am concerned that the term "*assault weapon or assault rifle*" is a misnomer, coined by gun control advocates that also incorrectly use the term with the phrase "*weapons of war*" (or "*weapons from the battlefield*") *have no business on our civilian streets,*" in an effort to frighten or confuse the public. Even a little research will underscore that military "assault rifles" are fully automatic or 3-round burst, and that military feature is their defining characteristic. These civilian-style semi-automatic rifles are essentially no different – other than cosmetics – than millions of other semi-automatic rifles used by civilians for hunting, competition and sporting purposes – for generations of Americans for well over a century now.

I support increased efforts in keeping firearms (and other weapons) out of the hands of those who should not have them and support sanctions on those who willfully misuse them. The only citizens this bill retroactively "*criminalizes*" are our legitimate gun owners in California. This bill does not aid us in our law enforcement mission and is simply an over-reach of our nation's Second Amendment within a state that is already one of the most highly regulated gun-control states in our entire nation.

Because this bill does nothing to deter crime, but merely bans certain firearms based on their appearance, I must oppose SB 47.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Sniff", written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County