



SHERIFF

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May 30, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tem – California State Senate
California State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Opposition to SB 374**

Dear Senator Steinberg,

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I oppose SB 374. This bill would reclassify semi-automatic rim fire or center rifles, which do not have fixed magazines capable of accepting no more than 10 rounds, as assault rifles. This bill would also require the registration, as an assault rifle, of all firearms meeting this proposed new assault rifle definition.

This bill places onerous restrictions on the constitutional rights of the honest, hardworking citizens who choose to own a semi-automatic rifle in California. However, this bill will not deter criminals from obtaining firearms for illegal purposes, and it does not help law enforcement keep our communities safe.

This bill prohibits an expanded definition of an "assault rifle" would include most semi-automatic rifles currently owned by the law abiding citizens of California and would ban the purchase of these firearms in the future. This bill reaches too far in an attempt to strip the rights of law abiding citizens to purchase semi-automatic rifles. This bill targets firearms which have been safely and responsibly owned by millions of American citizens for generations. The rifles this bill would label and ban as assault rifles are that which are primarily used by hunters and sports enthusiasts, and criminalizes legitimate California firearms owners.

I am concerned that this bill is attempting to attach the misnomer "assault weapon or assault rifle," coined by gun control advocates who also use the term with the phrase "weapons of war" (or "weapons from the battlefield") have no business on our civilian streets," in their efforts to frighten, confuse, or mislead the public, to ban hunting and recreational rifles which have long been part of our American tradition for many years.

Because this bill does nothing to deter crime, but would ban common hunting and recreational firearms, based on their shared characteristic of having a detachable magazine, I oppose SB 374.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Sniff".

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

CC: Assembly Member Tom Ammiano, Chair – Assembly Public Safety Committee
Assembly Member Melissa A. Melendez, Vice Chair – Assembly Public Safety
Committee
Senator Loni Hancock
Senator Leland Yee
Riverside County Legislative Representatives
California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)