



SHERIFF

P.O. BOX 512 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92502 (951) 955-2400 FAX (951) 955-2428

May 30, 2013

The Honorable Loni Hancock
Member California State Senate
California State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Opposition to SB 396**

Dear Senator Hancock:

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I oppose SB 396. This bill would criminalize the possession of high-capacity magazines, regardless of the date they were obtained and would require that ammunition magazines be no longer than what is required to accommodate ten rounds. California already banned magazines over 10 rounds many years ago. There is only a relatively small group of high-capacity magazines "grandfathered" as lawful in California years ago. Those few high-capacity magazines still lawful are so few and so dated they have had no impact on crime in California.

I oppose this bill because this type of "feel good" legislation does absolutely nothing to protect the citizens of California from gun violence or criminal behavior. Those who would commit violence against innocent citizens are not deterred by laws or restrictions of this type. The recent tragedies in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Connecticut demonstrate that a select few, who the proponents of this bill profess to control, are not deterred by these types of "feel good" laws.

This bill will result in the forced taking of personal property, which was lawfully purchased by honest hardworking citizens, without just compensation. Furthermore, because of the legal ramifications and probable law suits which will result if this bill passes, nearly every law abiding citizen who currently owns a "large capacity" magazine, as defined in this bill, would suddenly become law-breakers on January 1st, 2014. These ordinarily law-abiding citizens could remain "criminals" for months or years as the fate of this bill is decided in our courts. This bill is both confusing and misleads the public as to its value to the law enforcement communities. But it clearly attempts to criminalize a small minority of citizens in our communities that are not criminal, and should not be treated in this fashion.

For these reasons, I oppose SB 396.

Sincerely,

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

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 Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator Darrell Steinberg
Riverside County Legislative Representatives
California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)