



May 19, 2016

Honorable Senator Mike Morrell
Honorable Senator Richard Roth
Honorable Senator Jeff Stone
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA

Subject: AB 1511 & SB 894 - Opposed

Dear State Senators representing Riverside County:

Several additional firearms-related bills will be considered by the California Senate today or in the near future, and these include AB 1511 (Lending Firearms) and SB 894 (Reporting theft or loss of firearms). I oppose both of these proposed bills that create new crimes in California.

SB 894 would require every person to report the theft or loss of a firearm they own or possess within 5 days, making criminals of victims of crime if they do not meet the statutory timelines. This creates a new class of "status" offenses that serves no useful purpose to the law enforcement community in deterring criminal conduct - which should be the real focus of our criminal justice system and efforts. The real focus should be on the "criminal use" of firearms, not penalizing "victims of crime", and not adding to our overcrowded jail systems and our communities now reeling from the combined impact of rising crime rates in California, AB 109 Realignment and Prop 47, where our state has attempted to "decriminalize" offenses to relieve overcrowding over these past few years.

AB 1511 restricts current lending of firearms to family members, requires registration of any firearms lent, ignores self-defense and legitimate safe storage issues many of our law-abiding citizens face, and adds to the woes of our already over-crowded local county jails. Registration of firearms only currently occurs on formal transfer of firearms through DROS, some family heirlooms, with untold hundreds of thousands of firearms still legally "unregistered" throughout

California since founding. This proposed bill has zero law enforcement benefit but is simply another attempt to “demonize firearms” and creates yet another “status offense” that will adversely impact local law enforcement resources already stretched too thin.

For these reasons and more, as the Sheriff of Riverside County, I oppose these two bills formally on record, and I urge a “no” vote on both as they come before you on the floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan Sniff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stan Sniff
Sheriff, Riverside County

CC: Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Brian Jones
Assemblymember Eric Linder
Assemblymember Chad Mayes
Assemblymember Jose Medina
Assemblymember Melissa Melendez
Assemblymember Marie Waldron
California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)