



May 27, 2016

California State Senate & Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA

Subject: AB 1663 & AB 1664 - Opposed

Dear Riverside County State Legislators:

It is my understanding that AB 1663 and AB 1664 are scheduled to be heard before the State Assembly Committee on Appropriations today. I oppose both of these bills.

AB 1663 and 1664 are similar and would precipitously reclassify hundreds of thousands of legally owned semi-automatic rifles as "assault weapons." These are constitutionally protected firearms that have little direct association with crime. The changes would happen quickly at the expense of currently law-abiding gun owners, and without appropriate public notice, causing thousands law-abiding Californians to potentially be criminalized. Governor Brown vetoed similar legislation in 2013 and the California State Sheriffs' Association has opposed both of these bills.

This creates a new class of very serious "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 law-abiding owners of a very common class of "hunting" firearms - all semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines, used by generation-after-generation of Californians.

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I oppose these two bills formally on record, and I urge a "no" vote on both bills should they come before you on the floor.

Sincerely,

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

Stan Sniff
Sheriff, Riverside County

CC: Senator Mike Morrell, Senator Richard Roth, Senator Jeff Stone, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, Assemblymember Brian Jones, Assemblymember Eric Linder, Assemblymember Chad Mayes, Assemblymember Jose Medina, Assemblymember Melissa Melendez, and Assemblymember Marie Waldron
California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)