

County of Monterey



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September 11, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 94849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Subject: Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 7: Right to Safety Resolution

Dear Senator Wahab and Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write to express our support and endorsement of SJR 7, the Right to Safety Resolution. As an organization committed to promoting the safety and well-being of our communities, we firmly believe that gun safety laws save lives and create a safer environment for all.

The frequency and severity of gun-related deaths are deeply troubling. In 2021, approximately 49,000 Americans died as a result of gun violence — and gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children in our country. The impact of this violence reverberates through families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods, leaving a trail of tragedy in their wake. It is our collective responsibility to address this issue with urgency and determination.

We support the goal of ensuring that our elected representatives can determine the gun safety laws that are appropriate for their communities. We also support the following gun safety measures outlined in the proposed resolution: 1) raising the federal minimum age to purchase a firearm to 21; 2) mandating universal background checks; 3) instituting a reasonable waiting period before delivery of a firearm; and 4) barring civilian possession of assault weapons.

This resolution would be the first step in calling for a Constitutional Convention to guarantee government's ability to adopt common-sense gun safety measures and address the problem of spiraling gun violence that plagues our nation. We look forward to a day where needless gun deaths are a thing of the past, and a future where lives can be saved as a result of the adoption of SJR 7, which is the first step to enshrining our Constitution, the Right to Safety.

We appreciate your dedication and commitment to advancing policies that prioritize the safety and well-being of individuals, children, and families. It is for these reasons that the County of Monterey strongly supports SJR 7. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

LUIS A. ALEJO
Chair, Monterey County Board of Supervisors

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