

County of Monterey



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September 20, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1020 N Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, Ca 95814

**Re: SJR 7 (Senator Wahab & Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer) Right to Safety Resolution. –
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 7, the Right to Safety Resolution, and requests your signature on this important measure. 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 in our Constitution, the Right to Safety.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luis A. Alejo', written in a cursive style.

LUIS A. ALEJO

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Senator Aisha Wahab, Author
The Honorable Assembly Member Reginald Jones Sawyer, Author
Jessica Devencenzi, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senate District
The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties
Rural Counties Representatives of California