



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

February 17, 2021

The Hon. Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol Office, Room 2117
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0059

Assembly Bill 311 (Ward): Prohibiting the sale of firearm precursor parts at gun shows – Support

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 311.

AB 311 would amend the California Penal Code to prohibit vendors at gun shows from possessing, displaying, offering to sell, selling, or transferring any firearm precursor parts. Firearm precursor parts are the unmarked components used to assemble what are commonly known as “ghost guns.” These parts are not sold as pre-assembled weapons, have no serial numbers, and cannot be traced.

This bill expands upon previous legislation introduced in 2019 by then-Assemblymember Todd Gloria, which took effect on Jan. 1, 2021, prohibiting sales of firearms and ammunition at gun shows held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. AB 311 would effectively close a loophole that allows firearm parts (ghost gun kits) to continue to be sold at such events.

The bill would make a violation of these provisions a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$2,000, and would prohibit a vendor who has been convicted of a violation of those provisions from participating in any gun show or event in this state for one year after the date of the conviction. The bill would make additional violations punishable by a fine up to \$5,000 and a five-year prohibition on participating in any gun show or event in the state. The bill would also require gun show producers to notify the Department of Justice and make any vendor in violation immediately leave the premises.

This legislation is critically important to safeguard the public from crimes committed with weapons that can't be tracked, and to aid law enforcement and prosecutors who often use firearms to identify perpetrators.

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The safety of our children and our neighbors requires that gun owners act responsibly, and that all firearms are identifiable and traceable. There is only one reason to have a “ghost gun” and that is to use it to commit crimes and thwart law enforcement. We all are safer when sensible gun laws are enacted and followed.

I have made implementing an aggressive gun safety agenda a top priority of the San Diego City Attorney’s Office and have worked closely with legislators locally and at the state level to advance laws to protect Californians from gun violence.

I thank Assemblymember Chris Ward for addressing this serious threat to public safety. For these reasons, my Office strongly urges passage of AB 311 and looks forward to enforcing it.

Sincerely yours,



Mara W. Elliott