



OCTOBER

COUNTY OF FRESNO

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH

LISA A. SMITTCAMP
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2017

DISTRICT ATTORNEY URGES GOVERNOR TO VETO “SOFT ON GUN-CRIMES” BILL

The Fresno County District Attorney’s Office is urging California Governor Jerry Brown to veto Senate Bill 620, which has been characterized as being “soft on gun-crimes,” the District Attorney’s Office has announced.

In a letter to Governor Brown (attached), District Attorney Lisa A. Smittcamp expressed her office’s opposition to SB 620, pointing out that this Bill sends the wrong message to criminals when considering the recent increases in the firearm homicides and violent crime rates. Noting that the firearm homicide rate has increased 15% over the past two years, D.A. Smittcamp stated that “reducing the penalties for those violent criminals that use a firearm is a mistake at any time, but especially so in the light of these sobering violent crime increases.”

Anyone wishing to express their opinion as to whether Senate Bill 620 should be signed into law by Governor Brown is invited to express their views to the Governor’s Office at:

By Mail

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

By Phone

(916) 445-2841

By Email

at: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov39mail/>

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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LISA A. SMITTCAMP
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 9, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 620

Governor Brown,

The intent of this letter is to express the opposition of our office to SB 620 and to request that you veto this ill-conceived attempt to weaken California gun laws. As you are well aware, more people were killed with firearms in our state last year than in any year since 2008. Over the past two years, the firearm homicide rate has increased by 15%. During that same time, our state has also seen substantial increases in the violent crime rate.

Reducing the penalties for those violent criminals that use a firearm is a mistake at any time, but especially so in the light of these sobering violent crime increases. Further, taking such action at a time when our state is imposing multiple restrictions on legal gun ownership sends the wrong message to those who would use a gun in committing robbery, drive-by shootings or murder. Additional, mandatory punishment for those criminals who choose to use a firearm during a violent crime is necessary and just. On behalf of people of Fresno County who might be the victims of gun violence in the future, I urge you to veto SB 620.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Smittcamp".

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney