



CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
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September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Submitted via email to Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov

Re: AB 1057 (Petrie-Norris) - Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan academic and advocacy organization based at the University of San Diego School of Law. CPIL's mission is to harness the power of the law to institute positive social change by educating the next generation of leaders – public interest lawyers and government officials – and ensuring that our government adheres to its core mission of protecting its citizens. In the furtherance of those goals CPIL is the proud sponsor of Assembly Bill 1057 which will close a loophole for emergency Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVROs) by including ghost guns in the definition of seizable items. This bipartisan measure works to protect and advance a reality where every person – rich or poor, old or young – is protected against preventable gun violence. CPIL respectfully requests that you sign AB 1057 when comes before you.

More than 2 million firearms were sold in the U.S. during the month of January 2021 alone, an 80% increase and third highest monthly total on record. According to Everytown, there has been a surge in gun sales since the onset of the pandemic including ghost guns, which are more difficult to track as they can easily be bought with cash and are not subject to background checks.

Under existing law, precursor parts cannot be seized when a judge issues an emergency GVRO or DVRO. Law enforcement officers or close family members can request a GVRO when an individual is deemed to be an extreme risk to themselves or others. A judicial officer issues a DVRO to an individual when they are believed to be an immediate and present danger of domestic violence or place a child, elder, or dependent adult in immediate and present danger of abuse or abduction. In both GVRO and DVRO cases, law enforcement is currently only able to seize traditional firearms. The definition does not cover the frame or receiver of a firearm, nor the unfinished frame or receiver of a weapon that can be readily converted to the functional condition of a finished frame or receiver. This loophole in current California Code dangerously leaves out ghost guns and thereby, does not give courts the ability to seize weapons that may be of harm to the individual or others.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported that 31% of guns recovered in California were unserialized, untraceable ghost guns, putting the public and law enforcement in danger. Additionally, more than 2500 ghost guns were connected to criminal activity in 114 Federal cases from 2010 through April 2020.

By updating the definition of seizable firearms to include ghost guns for GVROs and DVROs, this bill ensures that these readily available weapons which look and act like any other firearm are treated appropriately.

For these reasons, the Center for Public Interest Law is proud to sponsor AB 1057 and requests your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Fellmeth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent "R" and "F".

Robert C. Fellmeth
Executive Director
Center for Public Interest Law
University of San Diego School of Law