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April 3, 2025

The Honorable Nick Schultz
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1187 (C. Rodriguez) - SPONSOR

Dear Assemblymember Schultz:

The Consumer Protection Policy Center (CPPC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, academic center of research, teaching, learning and advocacy in regulatory and public interest law based at the University of San Diego School of Law. CPPC is the proud cosponsor of AB 1187, which will better train and educate firearm owners on California's gun violence prevention laws via Firearm Safety Certificates (FSCs) to reduce the amount of gun violence injuries within California communities.

FSCs were established so every firearm owner could understand and follow firearm safety practices, have basic familiarity with the operation and handling of their firearm, and be fully aware of the responsibility of firearm ownership. Current law requires any person who acquires a firearm to have an FSC, unless statutorily exempt from the FSC requirements. A person must pass a Department of Justice (DOJ) written test on firearm safety, administered by DOJ instructors (often located at firearm dealerships). The FSC course also provides warning information regarding safe storage, proper transfer of firearm ownership, and suicide prevention. FSCs expire after five years of issuance.

Current law only requires new firearm owners that acquire a firearm within California to have an FSC. There is no requirement for persons who bring in firearms from out of state to complete the FSC requirements, nor renew the FSC after it expires five years from issuance. Further, the only current requirement to pass the FSC requirement is a multiple-choice test, with no practical component for new firearm owners.

AB 1187 will require persons who bring in firearms outside of California to acquire a FSC within 60. In addition, AB 1187 will ensure firearm owners are properly trained on how to use, handle, and store firearms with live-fire training. These new training requirements would ensure firearm owners are familiar with the operation of their firearm before the person uses the firearm in a real situation.

CPPC would also highlight that these requirements are in concurrence with the requirements under *New York State Rifle & Pistol Assn. v. Bruen*. Under *Bruen*, narrow, objective, and definite standards for firearm safety courses are designed to ensure only that those bearing arms in the jurisdiction are, in fact, responsible and law-abiding. However, constitutional challenges to lengthy wait times in processing license applications or exorbitant fees can deny citizens their right to public carry. Since AB 1187's requirements are narrow, objective, and definite for a firearm safety course to ensure those bearing arms in California are responsible and law-abiding, AB 1187 is more aligned with the permitted requirements under *Bruen* than other "shall-issue" concerns.

AB 1187 will help create a more educated firearm owner population in California and reduce the unnecessary and unintentional firearm injuries the people of California suffer every day. For the above reasons, CPPC supports AB 1187. Thank you for your continued leadership in shaping gun violence prevention policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcus Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcus Friedman
Administrative Director
Center for Public Interest Law
University of San Diego School of Law