

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Marc Berman  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 3496  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1598 (Berman) Gun violence: firearm safety education.  
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Berman,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your AB 1598, which requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to prepare a firearm-safety-certificate study guide, separate from the current instruction manual, explaining information covered in the firearm safety certificate test, and to develop a new pamphlet on the risk and benefits of firearm ownership.

Specifically, this measure expands the information that the written firearms safety certificate test must cover to include: the increased risk of homicide and unintentional injury as a result of bringing a firearm into the home, and current law as it relates to eligibility to own or possess a firearm. It also addresses gun violence restraining orders, domestic violence restraining orders, and privately manufactured firearms and requires the information to be made available by 2024. The bill expands the overall accessibility of safety information beyond its current scope.

Deciding to own and bring a firearm into the home is a purchase that comes with serious responsibility. It is critically important that potential firearm purchasers understand the serious risks so they can become a responsible firearm owner who is diligent in setting up safety measures to protect themselves and those around them. AB 1598 expands access and information regarding firearm safety so firearm purchasers can make informed decisions before bringing a firearm into their homes and community.

The City of Palo Alto stands committed to working with the Legislature to advance firearm safety measures, including AB 1598. On March 6, 2023, the Council unanimously approved an emergency ordinance to restrict concealed firearms from being carried in certain locations deemed sensitive, while also holding open the possibility of adding to the list of restricted locations in the future.

The City of Palo Alto applauds your leadership on this issue and is pleased to offer its support for your AB 1598.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto