



**County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors  
Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Board of Supervisors: Third District  
(831) 454-2200

**Meeting Date:** February 27, 2018

**Recommended Action(s):**

1. Hereby express the Board's support for the #NeverAgain movement and March for Our Lives taking place March 24<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. and around the United States; and
2. Direct the Chair to write a letter to California State Treasurer John Chiang, copying our State legislative representatives, as well as the CalPERS and CalSTRS Boards, in support of John Chiang's effort to divest California pension funds from certain gun manufacturers; and
3. Direct the Chair to write to Senator Dianne Feinstein in support of proposed legislation to increase the age requirement for purchasing rifles from gun dealers from 18 to 21 years, including assault weapons like the AR-15, and in support of Senate Bill 2095, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017.

**Executive Summary/Background and Analysis**

Dear Colleagues,

In the wake of yet another horrific school shooting by the hands of a gunman wielding an AR-15 assault rifle, I have been contacted by several constituents asking that we, at the local level, take action to limit or ban the availability of these weapons of mass destruction. Though local governments' regulatory ability is limited, there are substantive actions we can take to urge legislative change and lend our support to grass roots efforts currently taking place in Florida and around our Country.

At the State level, California State Treasurer John Chiang wrote a letter shortly after the Las Vegas shooting asking California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) and CalSTRS to research divesting from wholesale and retail sellers of banned weapons. Those funds have already divested from certain manufacturers of guns but I agree with Treasurer Chiang that we need to go a step further to ensure that taxpayer funds and pension contributions of public employees not be invested in the purveyors of banned military style assault weapons.

At the federal level, Senator Dianne Feinstein announced last week that she plans to introduce legislation which would raise the age requirement for purchasing rifles from gun dealers, including assault weapons like the AR-15, from 18 to 21 years of age. In addition, last fall Senator Feinstein introduced Senate Bill 2095, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017 which would among other provisions, ban the sale, manufacture, transfer

and importation of 205 military-style assault weapons. For many years Senator Feinstein has been a leader in calling for sensible gun control laws and this proposed legislation continues that effort. I believe our Board should lend its support for these sensible proposals.

Throughout the horror of another tragedy, we have seen a movement erupt led by young people, the very students most at risk for school shootings. The survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High school have begun a movement called #NeverAgain, and are lobbying their state and federal legislators demanding sensible gun control, and have planned a national day of action for March 24<sup>th</sup> called March for Our Lives. I have been inspired personally by the voices of these young people and their efforts and think our Board should express our support for their calls for gun control.

Accordingly, I ask that the Board vote to take action as indicated in our direction listed above.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Submitted by:**

Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor

**Attachments:**

**a** SB 2095 Bill Text

**cc:**

Congressmember Anna Eshoo  
Senator Bill Monning  
Assemblymember Anna Caballero  
Santa Cruz City School Dist.  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Kamala Harris  
Congressmember Jimmy Panetta  
Assemblymember Mark Stone  
City of Santa Cruz  
County Office of Education