

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
California State Senator, 33rd District
1021 O Street, Suite 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: SB 1253 (Gonzalez) - SUPPORT

L.A. Care Health Plan – the nation’s largest public plan with over 2.6 million beneficiaries enrolled Medi-Cal, Medicare/Medi-Cal (Dual Eligibles), PASC- SEIU Homecare Workers, and Covered California programs — writes in support of SB 1253, which would be an additional step of strengthening firearms safety and curbing gun violence in California. L.A. Care strongly supports responsible firearm ownership and advocates for measures that prioritize the safety and welfare of our communities.

SB 1253 proposes significant enhancements to California's firearm safety laws through the implementation of Firearm Safety Certificates (FSCs). These certificates are designed to educate firearm owners on essential safety practices and legal obligations, ensuring that every individual possessing a firearm is well informed and responsible.

Current California law mandates individuals acquiring firearms within the state to obtain an FSC. However, there is a gap in legislation for those importing firearms from out of state. SB 1253 aims to close this loophole by requiring individuals bringing firearms into California to obtain an FSC within 60 days. It also introduces a renewal requirement with a 60-day grace period and facilitates timely reminders from the DOJ for certificate renewal.

By extending FSC requirements to owners of firearms purchased out-of-state and by implementing FSC renewal procedures, SB 1253 seeks to cultivate a more knowledgeable and accountable firearm owner population statewide. Through these proactive measures, we can significantly reduce the incidence of preventable firearm-related injuries and contribute to the overall safety and well-being of our communities.

In 2022, the L.A. Care Board of Governors directed L.A. Care to advocate for more state and federal gun safety policies to protect lives. Integrating gun safety into health equity initiatives acknowledges the interconnectedness of community safety and overall well-being, aiming to ensure that all have access to the resources and support needed to prevent gun-related harm and promote equitable health outcomes. To that end, L.A. Care convened a summit where stakeholders proposed solutions to gun violence, and collaborated with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s Office of Violence Prevention to train healthcare professionals in supporting gun safety at home.

Recently, L.A. Care, the Los Angeles County Medical Association, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s Office of Violence Prevention collaborated on a digital billboard campaign promoting gun safety, specifically advocating for the use of gun locks to prevent accidental gun violence involving children and youth at home. This partnership enables the leveraging of expertise and resources to implement evidence-based strategies addressing gun violence and fostering community well-being.

For the above reasons, L.A. Care supports SB 1253. Together, let us strive toward a safer and healthier future for all Californians.

Sincerely,

Cherie Compartore

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Senior Director, Government Affairs