



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Isadore Hall, III
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 880 (Hall) – Assault Weapons

Dear Senator Hall:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Senate Bill 880 (Hall). This bill would help prevent gun violence by closing a loophole in existing State law that has allowed some weapons to operate similarly to assault weapons with the use of a “bullet button”, but not be regulated as such. Long Beach supports strengthening gun control laws that promote public safety and reduce the number of assault weapons in California.

While the State has led the nation in prohibiting ownership of military-style assault weapons equipped with detachable ammunition magazines, a modification to assault weapons known as the “bullet button” circumvents California’s Assault Weapon Ban. Because the “bullet button” is required to release the ammunition magazine, and it cannot be released by hand, “bullet button” firearms are not included in the prohibition. SB 880 would require owners who, between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2016, lawfully possessed firearms with “bullet buttons” to register them as assault weapons by July 1, 2018 with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

SB 880 strengthens California’s Assault Weapon Ban by amending the definition of “assault weapons” and defining “fixed magazine” in statute for the purposes of “assault weapons” classification. Clarifying the definition of “assault weapons” would also authorize the DOJ to ban from sale or transfer military-style assault weapons. Long Beach is supportive of these changes to State law.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 880.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker-Elect Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

