



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Mark Levine
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 1664 (Levine) – Firearms: assault weapons

Dear Assemblymember Levine:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1664 (Levine). 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 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. AB 1664 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).

AB 1664 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 assault weapons with “bullet buttons.” Long Beach is supportive of these changes to State law.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 1664.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District