

California State Senate

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September 11, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 879 (Gibson)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 879, which enacts a complex regulatory system for the sale and possession of "firearm precursor parts" as defined.

Similar to prior bills on this subject, this bill creates a complex system of regulation that is unlikely to prevent crime, yet will impose new financial and logistical burdens on business, consumers, and significant costs for the state.

The items in question, so-called "firearm precursor parts," are not controlled, tracked, serialized, or prohibited in any other state. As a result, determining their date of manufacture, importation, purchase or transfer would be very difficult if not impossible. This is further complicated by the fact that these items come in a number of formats, sizes and shapes. It is unlikely that the average person, or even many law enforcement officers, could actually identify these items or their purpose potentially leading to unintentional violations and/or a failure to enforce the statute. This type of vagueness could raise constitutional issues.

Finally, existing law makes it illegal to manufacture a firearm in this state without first requesting a serial number from the Department of Justice. It is understandable that the author personally dislikes firearms but there is little point to making an existing crime "more illegal" which appears to be the ultimate outcome of this measure.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Grove".

Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader