



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney  
SHARON L. WOO • Chief Deputy District Attorney  
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief of Staff

DANIEL FELIZZATTO • Legislative Advocate  
TAMAR TOKAT • Legislative Advocate

July 3, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 1420 (BERMAN) SUPPORT Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1420 (Berman).

AB 1420 expands the authority of the DOJ to conduct firearm dealer inspections to ensure compliance with all applicable state laws and to assess fines for their non-compliance.

Firearm dealers in California are subject to numerous state and federal laws that they must abide by in order to remain in operation.

Current law requires the DOJ to conduct inspections of firearm dealers every three years to ensure compliance with Penal Code Section 16575 specifically. That Penal Code section lists out a number of other sections in the Penal Code that impose requirements on firearm dealers. However, not all sections that impose requirements on firearms dealers are listed in Penal Code Section 16575. For example, Section 21628.2 of the Business & Professions Code, which requires certain firearm dealers to keep copies of certain firearm consignments or trades, is not listed. Therefore, the DOJ is technically unable by law to inspect those records.

Currently, the DOJ can conduct spontaneous, on-site inspections of dealers, but that authority is limited to checking for compliance with the statutes listed in Penal Code section 16575. That list of statutes listed in Section 16575 has not been updated since 2010 despite the passage of additional laws governing firearms dealers since that time. As such, DOJ representatives conducting inspections often observe non-compliance with more recent laws, but do not have the authority to cite those violations. This makes no sense from a legal or public policy perspective.

**July 3, 2023**  
**Page Two**

AB 1420 is a good, common sense, gun control measure that simply updates existing law to give DOJ the actual ability rather than merely statutorily authorizing DOJ to enforce all the statutes related to the commercial sale, transfer and storage of firearms.

For these reasons I am pleased to support AB 1420 and respectfully request your AYE vote.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN  
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Berman