

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 305
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4036
FAX (916) 651-4936

DISTRICT OFFICES
24031 EL TORO ROAD
SUITE 201A
LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653
TEL (949) 598-5850
FAX (949) 598-5855

169 SAXONY ROAD
SUITE 103
ENCINITAS, CA 92024
TEL (760) 642-0809
FAX (760) 642-0814

SENATOR.BATES@SENATE.CA.GOV
WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/BATES

California State Senate

SENATOR
PATRICIA C. BATES
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of SB 620 (Bradford)

Dear Governor Brown:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Senate Bill 620 (Bradford), which authorizes the court to strike an enhancement that is otherwise required to be imposed for using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

The author believes that the length of the underlying felony sentence constitutes an appropriate deterrent to the use of a firearm during a felony. However, the "10-20-life" enhancement only applies to eighteen enumerated crimes, including acts such as murder, mayhem, rape, sodomy, and lewd acts on a child. As the author of the original "10-20-life" bill noted; the problem is not guns, the problem is gun violence - criminals misusing guns to terrorize, injure and kill their victims." Given that we all share the goal of reducing gun violence, it is unclear why we would want to provide judges with the option of removing the enhancement for the use of a firearm during any one of these particularly violent crimes.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat." with a stylized flourish.

PATRICIA C. BATES
Senate Republican Leader

PB:ec/hw