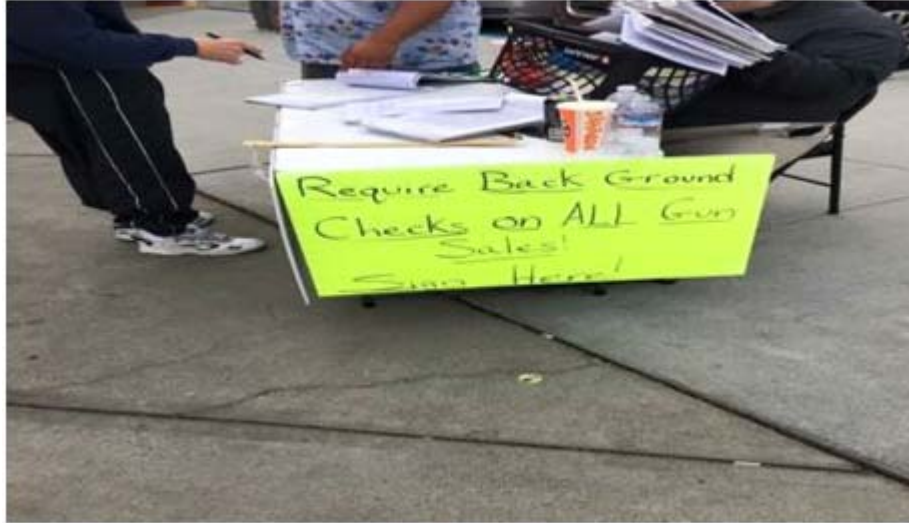


**Coalition For Civil Liberties Bulletin:
Help Stop Misinformation From Being Used by Paid Signature Gatherers
About Newsom's Anti-Gun Initiative**



In an effort to give an early boost to his 2018 campaign for Governor, notoriously anti-gun politician and California Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom is promoting an extremely anti-gun owner ballot initiative deceptively named the "Safety for All Act." To qualify the initiative for the November, 2016 ballot Newsom must obtain at least 360,000 signatures on petitions supporting the measure. Newsom has hired professional signature gatherers, who are paid for each signature they collect, to publicly circulate the petition.

If it makes the ballot and is approved by voters, Newsom's initiative would ban all online and mail order sales of ammunition, require a background check to buy ammo, confiscate standard capacity magazines, require anyone who sells more than 500 rounds of ammo in a year to register with the California Department of Justice, and ban private party ammunition sales. Newsom's nonsense would also require all people who want to buy ammo to pay a \$50 fee and wait up to 30 days to be included on the California Department of Justice's registration of eligible ammo purchasers. Then, ammunition buyers would have to provide their name, residential address, and phone number, which would be recorded by the California Department of Justice along with the type of ammo they purchase. This would, of course, cause the price of ammunition to sky rocket!

The Coalition for Civil Liberties has become aware of a big problem with the signature gathering process. We have received multiple reports that when asking people to sign the Petitions, signature gatherers have been misrepresenting the nature and effect of Newsom's proposal. This conduct is potentially illegal, but several signature gatherers have been videotaped making outrageously incorrect claims, such as that the initiative stops the sale of "assault weapons" or "machine gun ammunition," or requires background checks on all *firearm* sales (which is already the law). You can see some videotaped examples of this posted at www.stoptheammograb.com.

**Paid for by Coalition for Civil Liberties,
a project of California Rifle & Pistol Association**

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 Sacramento, CA 95814
ID# 1382067

Signature gatherers benefit when they mislead people into signing a petition because they get paid for each signature collected. By misrepresenting what the initiative actually does and making it sound less controversial than it really is, a signature gatherer can falsely induce people to sign the petition who otherwise would not. We cannot know exactly how many people would refuse to sign the petition if they were told the truth. But we would like to stop these paid signature gatherers from getting any illegal signatures they would not get if they told the truth.

The Coalition appreciates the offers to help that it has received to make sure that Newsom's signature gatherers are not illegally obtaining signatures by misrepresenting the truth about his initiative. For those who have offered, the Coalition is asking people who observe signature gatherers who appear to be making misrepresentations to document those alleged misrepresentations on videotape and to report these incidents to our lawyers so that we can collect the evidence needed to get those signatures disqualified and voided.

The Coalition for Civil Liberties has prepared materials to help guide people in their efforts. These materials include:

- 1) Instructions for reporting signature gatherer misconduct
- 2) Signature Gatherer Suspected Violation Reporting Form to send in to our attorneys; and
- 3) A Notice of Reported Violation letter to hand to the signature gatherer suspected of a violation.

Here are a few additional things you can do to join the fight against Newsom's attack on our civil liberties:

- Follow us on social media and engage every gun owner you know before it is too late.
- Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Spread the word at your local clubs, places of worship, ranges and stores. There are some excellent resources on our website at www.stoptheammograb.com. Forward them, and print them out and share them in public places.
- Register to vote for the November election. Learn more about the requirements [here](#).
- Donate to the campaign against the Newsom initiative. Gavin is already spending a fortune from his campaign war chest. Help us keep pace with [a donation](#).

We can win this battle, but we need your help now!

**Paid for by Coalition for Civil Liberties,
a project of California Rifle & Pistol Association**

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 Sacramento, CA 95814

ID# 1382067

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED SIGNATURE GATHERER MISCONDUCT

Professional signature gatherers are paid for each signature they get on petitions that will then be used to qualify the “Safety for All Act” proposed initiative for the 2016 ballot. Some of these paid signature gatherers are misrepresenting what the initiative says, and what it would do if passed by voters. They may be doing this to encourage people to sign the petition by making it seem like the initiative is less problematic than it is, so they can get paid for collecting more signatures.

Under California Elections Code § 18600, it is a crime if any signature gatherer “intentionally misrepresents or intentionally makes any false statement concerning the contents, purport or effect of the petition to any person who signs, or who desires to sign, or who is requested to sign, or who makes inquiries with reference to it, or to whom it is presented for his or her signature.” Signature gatherers also face potential civil liability.

The Coalition for Civil Liberties has received multiple reports of suspected violations, as well as offers to help the Coalition identify and stop signature gatherers who are misrepresenting the initiative’s effect. If you wish, you can help make sure that this process is done fairly, honestly, and legally by monitoring any “Safety for All Act” signature gatherers you encounter. If they appear to be making false representations, simply document it so the Coalition’s attorneys can be notified and can take the appropriate action. Please be aware if you decide to do this, you are not acting as an agent or legal representative of the Coalition or its lawyers!

STEP 1: COLLECT EVIDENCE BY VIDEOTAPING SIGNATURE GATHERER MISREPRESENTATIONS

The best way to document a misrepresentation or other violation by a signature gatherer is to:

1. Observe the signature gatherer in action for a few minutes;
2. Take a video “establishing shot” of the area in which the signature collector is operating;
3. Take pictures or video of any signs signature gatherers have posted; and
4. Videotape the signature gatherer (either openly or secretly) and record their representations about the initiative.

To get their misrepresentations on video, you may have to ask the signature gatherer for an explanation of what the initiative does. Be courteous and do not interrupt them as they explain. You can ask questions so that the signature gatherer can elaborate and confirm their misrepresentations of what the initiative would do. But do not try to trick a signature gatherer, or argue with them. You should objectively document signature gatherers misrepresentations to potential signers. Our lawyers will take it from there. It is very important to also record the signature gatherer’s identity and the date and location of your observation. If there is a violation, this will help identify signatures that can potentially be disqualified.

STEP 2: FILL OUT THE SUSPECTED VIOLATION REPORT FORM

If you conclude that the signature gatherer’s statements about the initiative’s impact and effect are likely inaccurate or false, fill out the "Signature Gatherer Suspected Violation Reporting Form" and send it to the address or email indicated on that form (there are additional restrictions for signature gatherers explained on the form, violations of which you should also report if witnessed). Be sure to send in your “evidence,” video and audio recordings and pictures, along with this Report.

**Paid for by Coalition for Civil Liberties,
a project of California Rifle & Pistol Association**

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 Sacramento, CA 95814
ID# 1382067

STEP 3: GIVE THE SIGNATURE GATHERER OUR LETTER

Additionally, hand the signature gatherer suspected of a violation the Notice of Report of Alleged Election Law Violation letter from Michel & Associates, P.C., the law firm representing the Coalition for Civil Liberties. This letter explains that it is a crime to misrepresent the initiative's effect, and puts the signature gatherer on notice of their legal obligations and informs them that they are suspected of misrepresenting the content of an initiative, or for other violations of the Elections Code.

STEP 4 (OPTIONAL): EDUCATE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING ASKED TO SIGN THE INITIATIVE

You are legally permitted to inform people who are being asked to sign the petition to qualify the initiative for the ballot of the true effect of the deceptively named "Safety for All Act." The Coalition for Civil Liberties has created materials that you can hand out to educate those potential petition signers. Most people are unaware that the proposed initiative is opposed by most law enforcement and many civil rights groups because it would greatly hinder the ability of law-abiding people and law enforcement officers to obtain ammunition and would ask the government to confiscate commonly owned property. You can learn more about what exactly the initiative purports to do and get flyers to distribute at:

www.stoptheammograb.com/resources

BEWARE: DON'T BREAK THE LAW YOURSELF!

It is illegal to steal petitions or to threaten signature gatherers with intent to dissuade them from circulating the petition. It is illegal to sign or solicit others to sign false, forged, fictitious, or ineligible names or the names of other; or solicit or obtain money or anything of value to aid in unlawfully stopping signature gathering.

Do not threaten the signature gatherer in any way! Do not even give them the excuse to try to characterize your actions as threatening! Be polite, respectful, and give the signature gatherer space. Do not interfere with signature gatherers efforts to get signatures.

Neither the Coalition for Civil Liberties, the California Rifle & Pistol Association, nor Michel & Associates, PC, condone or are responsible for any illegal behavior.

**Paid for by Coalition for Civil Liberties,
a project of California Rifle & Pistol Association**

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 Sacramento, CA 95814

ID# 1382067

SENIOR COUNSEL
C. D. MICHEL*

SPECIAL COUNSEL
JOSHUA R. DALE
ERIC M. NAKASU
W. LEE SMITH

ASSOCIATES
ANNA M. BARVIR
MICHELLE BIGLARIAN
SEAN A. BRADY
MATTHEW D. CUBIERO
SCOTT M. FRANKLIN
MARGARET E. LEIDY
BEN A. MACHIDA
CLINT B. MONFORT
JOSEPH A. SILVOSO, III
LOS ANGELES, CA

* ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



OF COUNSEL
DON B. KATES
BATTLEGROUND, WA

RUTH P. HARING
MATTHEW M. HORECZKO
LOS ANGELES, CA

WRITER'S DIRECT CONTACT:
562-216-4444
CMICHEL@MICHELLAWYERS.COM

Re: Notice of Report of Alleged Election Law Violation

Dear Petition Signature Gatherer,

This law firm represents the *Coalition for Civil Liberties*, a recipient committee opposing the "Safety For All Act." You have been witnessed collecting signatures on petitions to qualify that proposed initiative for the 2016 ballot. The witness is reporting to this law firm that s/he observed you making statements to potential petition signers that misrepresent the nature and effect of the "Safety For All Act."

California Elections Code § 18600 makes it a crime if anyone gathering signatures for a petition "intentionally misrepresents or intentionally makes any false statement concerning the contents, purport or effect of the petition to any person who signs, or who desires to sign, or who is requested to sign, or who makes inquiries with reference to it, or to whom it is presented for his or her signature." In addition to the criminal penalties for such violations, including fines up to \$1,000.00 and possible jail time, the Election Code also imposes civil penalties. If convicted of violating section 18600, the offending petition circulator may be prohibited from receiving any compensation for the signatures they gathered. *See* Cal. Elec. Code. §§ 18001; 18604.

Under the law, it is your employer's responsibility to train you about what an initiative does and it is your responsibility to accurately represent the effect of an initiative to potential signers of the petitions you collect signatures on. Making misrepresentations about an initiative's effect could result in criminal or civil legal liability.

To ensure the signature collection process is conducted fairly, honestly, and lawfully, this law firm will be investigating all alleged violations of the Elections Code by any individual gathering signatures for the "Safety for All Act," and taking all appropriate legal action to address those alleged violations, including reporting them to employers and the appropriate state authorities.

You should advise your employer that you received this letter. If you have any questions, you should consult your employer or your attorney. You may also find more information on the Secretary of State's website. Thank you for taking your legal responsibility to accurately represent the effect of this initiative to potential petition signers seriously.

Sincerely,
Michel & Associates, P.C.

C.D. Michel

**Paid for by Coalition for Civil Liberties,
a project of California Rifle & Pistol Association**
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 Sacramento, CA 95814
ID# 1382067

SIGNATURE GATHERER SUSPECTED VIOLATION REPORTING FORM

Please return completed form and all evidence to:
Michel & Associates, P.C., Attorneys at Law • 180 East Ocean Blvd., Suite 200, Long Beach, CA 90802
Phone: (562) 216-4444 • Facsimile (562) 216-4445
or email to: reports@michellawyers.com

Name of Signature Gatherer Observed: _____

Location of Signature Gatherer Observed: _____

Date of Observation: _____ Time of Observation: _____

NATURE OF OBSERVED VIOLATION (check all that apply)

- Signature gatherer misrepresented the effect, purpose, or contents of the petition to potential signers;
- Signature gatherer allowed signatures from people not registered to vote in the county;
- Signature gatherer intentionally made a false statement in response to a voter's inquiry as to whether the signature gatherer is paid or a volunteer;
- Signature gatherer refused to allow a prospective signer to read the proposed measure or petition;
- Signature gatherer covered up or obscured the Attorney General's summary of the initiative;
- Signature gatherer offered or gave payment or something of value in exchange for signing petition;
- Signature gatherer solicited or caused to be signed false, forged, fictitious, or ineligible signatures and names or names of another.

WITNESS INFORMATION

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Was violation video or audio recorded? Yes _____ No _____

Description of signature gatherer's violation and any other comments: _____

**Paid for by Coalition for Civil Liberties,
a project of California Rifle & Pistol Association**

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600 Sacramento, CA 95814
ID# 1382067