

RESOLUTION

Subject: Gun Violence Prevention – Universal Background Checks for Firearms Purchases
Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society
Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the rate of gun deaths has escalated year after year, 46 percent from 2011 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, firearms-related deaths comprise 67.5% of all homicides in the Land of the Free; and

WHEREAS, in Kentucky, 80% of all homicides and 63% of all suicide deaths involve firearms; and

WHEREAS, in Kentucky, guns are the second-leading cause of death for children ages 1–17; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky’s state law is amongst states with more lenient gun violence prevention policy; and

WHEREAS, gun-related suicide attempts and homicides (including mass-shootings) are more common in states with relaxed gun laws; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks 15th in the nation with gun related mortality; and

WHEREAS, gun deaths and injuries cost Kentucky \$5 billion per year, with \$181 million paid by taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic of gun violence is a nationwide public health crisis calling for physician leadership to prevent death and injury, and protect vulnerable children unable to vote against use of firearms; and

WHEREAS, universal background checks are related to lower rates of firearm injury morbidity and mortality with the majority of Americans supporting universal background checks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA support legislation that requires universal (not just from age 18-21) and comprehensive background checks for firearms ammunition purchases.

References:

Kalesan B, Mobily ME, Keiser O, Fagan JA, & Galea S. (April 30, 2016) Firearm legislation and firearm mortality in the USA: a cross-sectional, state-level study. *The Lancet* 387(10030): 1847-1858. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)01026-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01026-0)

giffords.org

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<https://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/kentucky>

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