

Referred to the KMA Gun Violence and Firearm Safety Work Group for Further Consideration

2023-27

RESOLUTION

Subject: Gun Violence Prevention – Support Legislation That Requires Background Checks for the Purchase of Firearms in Kentucky

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, from 2022 to 2023, Kentucky has deteriorated from being the 15th highest to 14th highest state in the nation in firearm related deaths¹; and

WHEREAS, from 2022 to 2023, guns are now the first leading cause of death in children (ages 1-17)²; and

WHEREAS, gun violence costs Kentucky \$9.6 billion each year (includes medical, work-loss, police and criminal justice, employer, and quality-of life costs)², of which in 2023, the direct cost to Kentucky taxpayers of gun-related deaths and injuries was \$183.4 million³; and

WHEREAS, in an average year in Kentucky, 823 people die by guns³, and

WHEREAS, 22% of U.S. gun owners acquired their most recent firearm without a background check and 45% of gun owners who acquired a gun online in the past two years did so without any background check⁴; and

WHEREAS, 80% of firearms obtained for criminal purposes are obtained through transfers from unlicensed sellers⁴; and

WHEREAS, 96% of inmates convicted of gun offenses and prohibited of possessing a firearm at the time of the offense obtained a firearm from an unlicensed seller⁴; and

WHEREAS, firearm background checks are found to be accurate greater than 99% of the time⁴; and

WHEREAS, 87% of voters favor requiring a criminal background check and 80% favor performing mental health checks on all firearm buyers⁵; and

WHEREAS, 77% of voters favor requiring a 30-day waiting period for all gun purchases⁵; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports legislation that requires background checks with every private firearm purchase in Kentucky to reduce firearm-related deaths.

References:

- 1 Murphy, A., Daniels, L. (2023). Kentucky Intentional Firearm Injury-Related Deaths, Emergency Department Visits, and Inpatient Hospitalizations, 2019–2022. Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center.(KIPRC)
- 2 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-economic-cost-of-gun-violence/#costs-to-taxpayers-survivors-families-and-employers>
- 3 <https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Gun-Violence-in-Kentucky-2.pdf>
- 4 https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/background-checks/universal-background-checks/#footnote_0_4119
- 5 <https://www.foxnews.com/official-polls/fox-news-poll-voters-favor-gun-limits-arming-citizens-reduce-gun-violence> [Conducted April 21-24, 2023, under the joint direction of Beacon Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R), this Fox News Poll includes interviews with 1,004 registered voters nationwide who were randomly selected from a national voter file and spoke with live interviewers on both landlines and cellphones. The total sample has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.]