

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

2023-29

RESOLUTION

Subject: Gun Violence Prevention – Support Legislation that Addresses Ghost Guns in Kentucky

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the use of U.S. crimes involving ghost guns (unregistered and untraceable homemade weapons that can be made with a 3D printer or assembled from a kit) has risen more than 1,000% since 2017¹; and

WHEREAS, ghost guns have been used in many mass shootings²; and

WHEREAS, ghost guns are manufactured and sold in a manner that allows them to escape the definition of a “firearm”²; and

WHEREAS, ghost guns are created (sold and assembled) without traceable serial numbers²; and

WHEREAS, ghost guns are sold anonymously bypassing background checks²; and

WHEREAS, many ghost guns are made of plastic and undetectable by traditional metal detectors or other security measures²; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of selling the frame or receiver in “unfinished” form is to circumvent key federal and state gun safety laws both for the industry that manufactures and sells these products and the buyers who purchase them²; and

WHEREAS, current gun safety laws have not kept up with the speed of technology²; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that KMA supports legislation that eliminates ghost gun loopholes (i.e., limits the sale of receiver component of a firearm to those that have been completed, marked, and serialized; requires background checks by sellers; and includes items in the legal definition of a firearm, if intended for the completion of a firearm) in Kentucky to reduce firearm-related deaths.

References:

1 National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Crime Guns - Volume Two

<https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-nfcta-crime-guns-volume-two>

2 <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/ghost-guns/>