

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

2023-31

RESOLUTION

Subject: Gun Violence Prevention – Support Legislation that Establishes a State-Wide Office of Gun Safety in Kentucky

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

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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)³, of which in 2023, the direct cost to Kentucky taxpayers of gun-related deaths and injuries was \$183.4 million²; and

WHEREAS, in an average year in Kentucky, 823 people die by guns⁴; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has the 12th highest rate of gun suicides in the country⁴; and

WHEREAS in Kentucky, there is a gun suicide every 18 hours⁴; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports legislation that establishes a state-wide Office of Gun Safety 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://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Gun-Violence-in-Kentucky-2.pdf>

3 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-economic-cost-of-gun-violence/#costs-to-taxpayers-survivors-families-and-employers>

4 CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, five-year average: 2014-2018.