

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

2023-34

RESOLUTION

Subject: Enact Legislation to Protect Kentucky Schoolchildren, Citizens, and Police Officers from Gun Violence and Mass Shootings

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, gun violence has now become the number one cause of death in American children, and mass shootings now number over 600 per year, and gun deaths exceed 40,000 per year (3 times American deaths from poliomyelitis over its peak decade of 1941-1950, and 3 times American deaths in the Iraq-Afghanistan wars), and American gun deaths far exceed other culturally similar nations (e.g. 100 times that of Great Britain, per capita); and

WHEREAS, assault (semi-automatic, rapid-fire) weapons (e.g. AR-15, AK-47, etc.), and enhanced killing features (e.g. high-capacity magazines), are increasingly involved in mass shootings, school invasions and gun violence, which raises casualties 6-fold; and

WHEREAS, the escalating epidemic of mass shootings, school invasions and gun violence is now a public health crisis in Kentucky and across America, leading the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Psychiatric Association, American Public Health Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police to call for bans of assault weapons and enhanced killing features, loophole-free background checks, and “red flag” (Extreme Risk Protective Order) laws¹⁻⁴; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky legislature has denied protection of our schoolchildren, citizens and police officers by ignoring control measures for assault rifles and killing enhancements, by avoiding enactment of effective background checks and “red flag” laws; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that to protect our schoolchildren, citizens and police officers from mass shootings and gun violence, the KMA join America’s principal medical, public health, and police organizations¹⁻⁴ in citing gun violence as a public health crisis, and calling for and supporting the following legislation:

- 1 A ban of assault (semi-automatic) weapons and killing enhancement features, including high-capacity magazines, rapid-fire increasers (e.g. “bump stocks”), silencers, and guns without serial numbers (e.g. “ghost” and 3-D printed guns).

- 2 Require background checks without loopholes, plus waiting periods and safety training on all firearm transfers (store, internet, gun-show purchases, lending and gifts).
- 3 Establish Extreme Risk Protective Orders (“Red Flag” laws) to disarm persons who pose risks of gun violence to self or others.

References:

- 1 McLean RM, Harris P, Cullen J, et al. Firearm-related injury and death in the United States: a call to action from the nation's leading physician and public health professional organizations. *Ann Intern Med.* 2019;171(8):573-577. doi:10.7326/M19-2441
- 2 <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-recommends-new-common-sense-policies-prevent-gun-violence>
- 3 <https://www.apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy/Public-Health-Policy-Statements/Policy-Database/2014/07/24/17/55/Support-Renewal-with-Strengthening-of-the-Federal-Assault-Weapons-Ban>
- 4 https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/IACP%20Firearms%20Position%20Paper_2018.pdf