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3 Title: Address Gun Violence using a Public Health Approach  
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5 Introduced by: Annette Mercatante, MD, for the Michigan Association of Preventive Medicine  
6 and Public Health  
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8 Original Author: Annette Mercatante, MD  
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10 Referred to: Reference Committee D  
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12 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**  
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15 Whereas, over 100,000 Americans are killed or injured by firearms every year, and  
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17 Whereas, the economic costs of firearm-related injury and death total more than \$270 billion in  
18 costs associated with medical expenses, loss of work, and loss of quality of life, and  
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20 Whereas, firearms increase the cost of injuries from violence, the lethality of violence, and the  
21 emotional toll on victims and witnesses, and  
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23 Whereas, the National Institute of Justice found evidence which suggested that the Federal  
24 Assault Weapons Ban (1994) may have contributed to a reduction in the gun murder rate and murders of  
25 police officers by criminals armed with assault weapons, and  
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27 Whereas, the American Public Health Association recognizes that handgun deaths and injuries  
28 constitute a major public health concern in the United States, and  
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30 Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services acknowledges the need for research  
31 to understand the factors that contribute to disparities in fatal and nonfatal firearm-related injuries, and  
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33 Whereas, the collection and analysis of detailed information about gun injuries, such as that  
34 collected through the National Violent Death Reporting System, is essential to the design and evaluation  
35 of injury prevention interventions, and  
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37 Whereas, multidisciplinary and inter-professional collaborations are necessary to bring about  
38 meaningful changes which lead to the reduction of firearm-related injuries and deaths; therefore be it  
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40 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports physicians working with local and state public health agencies,  
41 law enforcement agencies, and other community organizations and leaders to identify, develop and  
42 evaluate strategies to increase firearm safety and prevent firearm injury and death; and be it further  
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44 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports evidence-based research on gun-related injuries and deaths,  
45 including funding for such research, and the collection of health care, medical examiner, and criminal  
46 justice data at the local, state, and federal level; and be it further  
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48 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports policy changes that prohibit acquisition of firearms by high-risk  
49 persons, requires firearm owners to have firearm safety certification, and ban the sale of assault weapons  
50 and large-capacity ammunition magazines.  
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53 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None

## **Relevant MSMS Policy:**

### **Ban Look-alike Toy Guns**

MSMS supports a ban on look-alike toy guns. (Prior to 1990)

### **Concealed Guns**

MSMS opposes liberalization of concealed gun laws. (Res18-98A)

### **Firearm Education**

MSMS supports a basic course in care and handling of firearms. (Res79-94A)

MSMS supports age- and developmentally-appropriate gun safety education. (Res33-01A)

### **Firearm-Related Injury and Death: Adopt A Call to Action**

MSMS endorses the specific recommendations made in the publication "Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From 8 Health Professional Organizations and the American Bar Association," which is aimed at reducing the health and public health consequences of firearms. (Res13-16)

### **Handgun Control and Education**

MSMS recommends effective controls on the assembly, manufacture, distribution and possession of handguns.

MSMS supports distribution of educational materials to firearm purchasers. The materials should address the use of lock boxes, trigger locks, childproof safety catches and loading indicators. (Res58-92A)

– Amended 1993

– Edited 1998

### **Limit Ownership of Assault Weapons**

MSMS supports efforts to limit ownership and use of assault weapons. (Res100-89A)

### **Reduction of Gun Violence**

MSMS supports federal and state legislation ensuring that physicians can fulfill their role in preventing firearm injuries by health screening, patient counseling on gun safety, and referral to mental health services for those with behavioral/emotional medical conditions and supports federal and state evidence-based research on firearm injury and the use of state/national firearms injury databases to inform state/federal health policy. (Res78-13)

### **Weakening Handgun and Assault Weapon Regulations**

MSMS opposes weakening the current laws regarding the manufacture, importation and/or ownership of assault weapons and/or handguns. (Res37-96A)

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#### Sources:

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5. Cook PJ, Lawrence BA, Ludwig J, Miller TR (1999). The Medical Costs of Gunshot Injuries in the United States. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 282, 447-454.
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