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3 Title: Physician Leadership in the Prevention of Gun Violence
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5 Introduced by: Cheryl Farmer, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation
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7 Original Authors: Cheryl Farmer, MD, Marguerite Shearer, MD, and Jerry Walden, MD
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9 Referred to: Reaffirmation Calendar
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11 House Action: **REAFFIRMED**
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14 Whereas, there are over 35,000 deaths and 70,000 injuries from gun violence in the United States
15 annually, 20 times greater than in other industrialized countries¹, and
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17 Whereas, gun-related morbidity and mortality constitutes a public health crisis according to both the
18 American Medical Association² and the American Public Health Association³, and
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20 Whereas, a 2016 study analyzing extreme risk protection orders (ERPO) demonstrated that in
21 Connecticut, for every 10 to 20 guns seized under the law, one suicide was prevented⁴ and Indiana's version
22 of this law was associated with 7.5 percent fewer gun suicides in Indiana over the decade following the law's
23 passage in 2005⁵, and
24

25 Whereas, in 2015, eight major medical professional societies - the American Academy of Family
26 Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Congress
27 of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons,
28 American Psychiatric Association, and the American Public Health Association⁶ -- as well as the American Bar
29 Association issued a Call to Action to halt the gun violence crisis. In 2016, at the behest of MSMS, the
30 American Medical Association became the ninth⁷, and
31

32 Whereas, two nationally recognized physician experts recommended four common sense laws that
33 help to reduce the morbidity and mortality cause by firearms⁸, and
34

35 Whereas, laws in 10 states and in Washington, DC, requiring firearms purchasers to obtain in-person
36 permits at local law enforcement agencies has been shown to reduce the risk of guns being diverted to
37 criminals by 68 percent and are also considered to be more effective as a crime deterrent than point of sale
38 background checks⁹, and
39

40 Whereas, a 1991 California law and subsequent analysis showed that convicts who were allowed to
41 buy guns were nearly 30 percent more likely to be arrested later for a gun crime or other violent crime
42 compared to those who were unable to purchase guns after the law was passed¹⁰, and
43

44 Whereas, evidence has shown that states that have enacted "relinquishment" law provisions have
45 reduced intimate partner violence by nearly 50 percent¹¹, and
46

47 Whereas, data from California has shown that those with driving under the influence violations are
48 four to five times as likely as people with no criminal record to be arrested for a violent crime in the future¹²;
49 therefore be it
50

51 RESOLVED: That MSMS pledge to become a leader in the effort to prevent gun violence in the State
52 of Michigan and advocate for extreme risk protection orders similar to those outlined in Michigan House Bill
53 4706 of 2017; and be it further

54 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate to require all purchasers of firearms to obtain in-person permits at
55 local law enforcement agencies; and be it further

56
57 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate to ban individuals convicted of any violent crime from gun
58 purchases; and be it further

59
60 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate that all serious domestic violence offenders be compelled to
61 surrender their firearms until such persons prove competency in safe firearm ownership; and be it further

62
63 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate to limit firearm possession by those who recklessly use substances,
64 such as alcohol, through restricting gun possession permits for those who have committed two driving
65 under the influence violations in a period of five years, and/or until such person proves competency to drive
66 and can prove a safe return to firearm possession, as currently enacted in California Statute Penal Code
67 29800.

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69
70 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$25,000 or more as this resolution requires MSMS to engage
71 in legislative advocacy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

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)

Firearm Regulations (Pending final approval by the 2019 MSMS HOD)

MSMS opposes the liberalization of concealed gun laws and efforts to weaken current laws regarding the manufacture, importation, and/or ownership of assault weapons and/or handguns.

MSMS supports policies that 1) prohibit acquisition of firearms by high-risk persons; 2) require firearm owners to have firearm safety certification which includes but is not limited to basic education in the care and handling of firearms; 3) limit ownership and use of assault weapons; and, 4) ban the sale of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. (Res37-96A)

Edited 2019

Amended 2019 (Res 44-18)

Address Gun Violence Using a Public Health Approach (Pending final approval by the 2019 MSMS HOD)

MSMS supports physicians working with local and state public health agencies, law enforcement agencies, and other community organizations and leaders to identify, develop and evaluate strategies to increase firearm safety and prevent firearm injury and death. (Res44-18)

Evidence-based Research on Firearm Adverse Incidents (Pending final approval by the 2019 MSMS HOD)

MSMS supports evidence-based research on gun-related injuries and deaths, including funding for such research, and the collection of health care, medical examiner, and criminal justice data at the local, state, and federal level. (Res44-18)

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

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)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Firearms and High-Risk Individuals H-145.972

Our AMA supports: (1) the establishment of laws allowing family members, intimate partners, household members, and law enforcement personnel to petition a court for the removal of a firearm when there is a high or imminent risk for violence; (2) prohibiting persons who are under domestic violence restraining orders, convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes or stalking, from possessing or purchasing firearms; (3) expanding domestic violence restraining orders to include dating partners; (4) requiring states to have protocols or processes in place for requiring the removal of firearms by prohibited persons; (5) requiring domestic violence restraining orders and gun violence restraining orders to be entered into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System; and (6) efforts to ensure the public is aware of the existence of laws that allow for the removal of firearms from high-risk individuals.

Gun Regulation H-145.999

Our AMA supports stricter enforcement of present federal and state gun legislation and the imposition of mandated penalties by the judiciary for crimes committed with the use of a firearm, including the illegal possession of a firearm.

Firearms as a Public Health Problem in the United States - Injuries and Death H-145.997

Our AMA recognizes that uncontrolled ownership and use of firearms, especially handguns, is a serious threat to the public's health inasmuch as the weapons are one of the main causes of intentional and unintentional injuries and deaths. Therefore, the AMA: (1) encourages and endorses the development and presentation of safety education programs that will engender more responsible use and storage of firearms; (2) urges that government agencies, the CDC in particular, enlarge their efforts in the study of firearm-related injuries and in the development of ways and means of reducing such injuries and deaths; (3) urges Congress to enact needed legislation to regulate more effectively the importation and interstate traffic of all handguns; (4) urges the Congress to support recent legislative efforts to ban the manufacture and importation of nonmetallic, not readily detectable weapons, which also resemble toy guns; (5) encourages the improvement or modification of firearms so as to make them as safe as humanly possible; (6) encourages nongovernmental organizations to develop and test new, less hazardous designs for firearms; (7) urges that a significant portion of any funds recovered from firearms manufacturers and dealers through legal proceedings be used for gun safety education and gun-violence prevention; and (8) strongly urges US legislators to fund further research into the epidemiology of risks related to gun violence on a national level.

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Firearm Related Injury and Death: Adopt a Call to Action H-145.973

Our AMA endorses the specific recommendations made by an interdisciplinary, inter-professional group of leaders from the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Psychiatric Association, American Public Health Association, and the American Bar Association 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 and lobby for their adoption.

Prevention of Firearm Accidents in Children H-145.990

Our AMA (1) supports increasing efforts to reduce pediatric firearm morbidity and mortality by encouraging its members to (a) inquire as to the presence of household firearms as a part of childproofing the home; (b) educate patients to the dangers of firearms to children; (c) encourage patients to educate their children and neighbors as to the dangers of firearms; and (d) routinely remind patients to obtain firearm safety locks, to store firearms under lock and key, and to store ammunition separately from firearms;(2) encourages state medical societies to work with other organizations to increase public education about firearm safety; (3) encourages organized medical staffs and other physician organizations, including state and local medical societies, to recommend programs for teaching firearm safety to children; and (4) supports enactment of Child Access Prevention laws that are consistent with AMA policy.

Firearm Safety and Research, Reduction in Firearm Violence, and Enhancing Access to Mental Health Care H-145.975

. Our AMA supports: a) federal and state research on firearm-related injuries and deaths; b) increased funding for and the use of state and national firearms injury databases, including the expansion of the National Violent Death Reporting System to all 50 states and U.S. territories, to inform state and federal health policy; c) encouraging physicians to access evidence-based data regarding firearm safety to educate and counsel patients about firearm safety; d) the rights of physicians to have free and open communication with their patients regarding firearm safety and the use of gun locks in their homes; e) encouraging local projects to facilitate the low-cost distribution of gun locks in homes; f) encouraging physicians to become involved in local firearm safety classes as a means of promoting injury prevention and the public health; and g) encouraging CME providers to consider, as appropriate, inclusion of presentations about the prevention of gun violence in national, state, and local continuing medical education programs.

2. Our AMA supports initiatives to enhance access to mental and cognitive health care, with greater focus on the diagnosis and management of mental illness and concurrent substance use disorders, and work with state and specialty medical societies and other interested stakeholders to identify and develop standardized approaches to mental health assessment for potential violent behavior.

3. Our AMA (a) recognizes the role of firearms in suicides, (b) encourages the development of curricula and training for physicians with a focus on suicide risk assessment and prevention as well as lethal means safety counseling, and (c) encourages physicians, as a part of their suicide prevention strategy, to discuss lethal means safety and work with families to reduce access to lethal means of suicide.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20571454> | Richardson EG, Hemenway D. 2011. Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the US with other high-income countries, 2003

² <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-calls-gun-violence-public-health-crisis>

³ <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/gun-violence>

⁴ <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=4830&context=lcp> | Jeffrey W. Swanson et al., Implementation and Effectiveness of Connecticut's Risk-Based Gun Removal Law: Does it Prevent Suicides?, 80 Law and Contemporary Problems 179-208 (2017)

⁵ <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=4830&context=lcp> | Jeffrey W. Swanson et al., Implementation and Effectiveness of Connecticut's Risk-Based Gun Removal Law: Does it Prevent Suicides?, 80 Law and Contemporary Problems 179-208 (2017)

⁶ <https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2151828/firearm-related-injury-death-united-states-call-action-from-8>

⁷ <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-calls-gun-violence-public-health-crisis>

⁸ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/4-laws-that-could-stem-the-rising-threat-of-mass-shootings/>

⁹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2704273/> | Webster DW, Vernick JS, Bulzacchelli MT. 2009. Effects of state-level firearm seller accountability policies on firearms trafficking. J. Urban Health 86:525-37

¹⁰ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11209172> | Wintemute GJ, Wright MA, Drake C, Beaumont JJ. 2001. Subsequent criminal activity among violent misdemeanants who seek to purchase handguns. JAMA 285:1019-26

¹¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28975202> | Ann Intern Med. 2017 Oct 17;167(8):536-543. doi: 10.7326/M16-2849. Epub 2017 Sep 19.

¹² <https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/24/1/68>