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3 Title: Prohibit Persons from Carrying Firearms and Explosive Devices in Public
4 Spaces
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6 Introduced by: Robert Sain, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation
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8 Original Author: Robert Sain, MD
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10 Referred To: Reaffirmation Calendar
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12 House Action: **REAFFIRMED**
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15 Whereas, Michigan citizens experienced the deliberate lethal threat against our neighbors
16 and public officials by persons carrying firearms and/or explosive devices in the Michigan State
17 Capitol on April 30, 2020, and in various instances since, and
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19 Whereas, members of the group(s) who invaded Michigan's Capitol in April and threatened
20 our elected officials and public servants were among those who went on to threaten to kidnap and
21 harm various elected leaders, including Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana
22 Nessel, and
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24 Whereas, private unauthorized militias are illegal in Michigan, and
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26 Whereas, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project states that far-right groups
27 have taken an increasing part in demonstrations against the election result, demonstrations are
28 more likely to turn violent if militia members are present, and these groups have not just started
29 attending more protests, they are also ramping up training and recruitment events, and
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31 Whereas, members of Michigan militant groups are known to have participated in the
32 insurrection attempt at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC on January 6, 2021, making it clear that
33 violence against the U.S., its people, and its institutions may just be beginning, and
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35 Whereas, the act of threatening and intimidating with firearms, and/or explosive devices
36 through open carry in the Michigan State Capitol only became expressly prohibited in January
37 2021, but concealed carry is still permissible, and
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39 Whereas, there is increasing bipartisan support from lawmakers on banning the open carry
40 of firearms in the Michigan legislature, and
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42 Whereas, the latest U.S. public opinion on carrying firearms in public places from the
43 *American Journal of Public Health* shows that fewer than one in three U.S. adults supported gun
44 carrying in any of the specified venues, and support for carrying in public was lowest for schools
45 (19%; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 16.7, 21.1), bars (18%; 95% CI = 15.9, 20.6), and sports
46 stadiums (17%; 95% CI = 15.0, 19.5), and

47 Whereas, carrying firearms has been used to threaten individuals and impose physiologic
48 and psychological harm to persons exposed making this a medical issue worthy of consideration by
49 our medical societies, and

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51 Whereas, in Michigan, those who carry firearms and explosive devices in public incite
52 unnecessary fear, stress, and safety risks to fellow citizens and public officials; therefore be it
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55 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate that firearms and explosive devices of all kinds, with a
56 carry exception for law enforcement officials, be prohibited from state government buildings and
57 public spaces.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None

STATEMENT OF URGENCY: Gun violence is a daily epidemic and there was increased unrest and violence in 2020-2021 in Michigan and Washington.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Address Gun Violence Using a Public Health Approach

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.

Firearm Regulations

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.

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.

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.

Oppose Imposition of Penalties on Local Units of Government and/or Officials and Staff

MSMS opposes the prohibition of local units of government and/or their elected or appointed officials or staff from imposing restrictions on the ownership, registration, purchase, sale, transfer, transportation, or possession of guns within their area of jurisdiction and/or punishment for the imposition of such restrictions.

Relevant AMA Policy:

AMA Campaign to Reduce Firearm Deaths H-145.988

The AMA supports educating the public regarding methods to reduce death and injury due to keeping guns, ammunition and other explosives in the home.

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.

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

1. 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:

- (A) encourages and endorses the development and presentation of safety education programs that will engender more responsible use and storage of firearms;
- (B) 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;
- (C) urges Congress to enact needed legislation to regulate more effectively the importation and interstate traffic of all handguns;
- (D) 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;
- (E) encourages nongovernmental organizations to develop and test new, less hazardous designs for firearms;
- (F) 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
- (G) strongly urges US legislators to fund further research into the epidemiology of risks related to gun violence on a national level.

2. Our AMA will advocate for firearm safety features, including but not limited to mechanical or smart technology, to reduce accidental discharge of a firearm or misappropriation of the weapon by a non-registered user; and support legislation and regulation to standardize the use of these firearm safety features on weapons sold for non-military and non-peace officer use within the U.S.; with the aim of establishing manufacturer liability for the absence of safety features on newly manufactured firearms.

Sources:

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6. <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/01/11/commission-consider-open-carry-ban-state-capitol/6620997002/>

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9. <https://www.drforamerica.org/issues/gun-violence-prevention/>
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