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3 Title: Waiting Period for Gun Purchase
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5 Introduced by: John Pelachyk, MD, for the St. Clair County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Raj Makim, MD
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9 Referred To: Reference Committee D
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11 House Action: **APPROVED**
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14 Whereas, a waiting period law requires a certain number of days to lapse between the
15 purchase of a firearm and when the buyer can actually take possession, and
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17 Whereas, by delaying immediate access to firearms, waiting periods create an important
18 "cooling off" period that can help prevent impulsive acts of gun violence, including gun homicides
19 and suicides, and
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21 Whereas, many studies suggest that most suicide survivors contemplated their actions for
22 only a brief period of time, "often less than 24 hours" before making a suicide attempt. Similarly,
23 studies suggest that some of the factors that incite violence against others, such as anger and rage,
24 can be short-lived, and
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26 Whereas, studies suggest that waiting period laws are associated with reduced rates of
27 firearm suicide. By one estimation, waiting period laws may reduce firearm suicide rates by 7-11
28 percent, and
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30 Whereas, waiting period laws also appear to reduce gun homicide rates. One study found
31 that waiting period laws that delay the purchase of firearms by a few days can reduce gun
32 homicides by roughly 17 percent, and
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34 Whereas, waiting periods can also give law enforcement agencies additional time to
35 complete background checks that sometimes cannot be completed within the three-day window
36 provided by the federal law, and
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38 Whereas, each year, approximately 3,800 ineligible people acquire firearms through so-
39 called "default proceed" sales, in which a dealer completes a sale without a completed background
40 check after three business days, as is allowed under federal law, and
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42 Whereas, Federal Bureau of Investigation experts have recommended extending the time to
43 complete background checks to reduce the number of prohibited people, "like people subject to
44 domestic violence restraining orders," able to purchase firearms by default proceeds; therefore be it
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46 RESOLVED: That MSMS recommend to the Michigan Legislature the establishment of a
47 waiting period for all firearm purchases in Michigan.
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Relevant MSMS Policy:

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.

Relevant AMA Policy:

Waiting Period Before Gun Purchase H-145.992

The AMA supports legislation calling for a waiting period of at least one week before purchasing any form of firearm in the U.S.

Sources:

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2. T. R. Simon, et al., "Characteristics of Impulsive Suicide Attempts and Attempters," *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 32 no. 1 (Suppl.) (2001): 49-59;
3. Catherine W. Barber and Matthew J. Miller, "Reducing a Suicidal Person's Access to Lethal Means of Suicide: A Research Agenda," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 47, no. 3 (2014): S264-S272. See also, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Means Matter, "Impulsivity and Crises," <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/means-matter/impulsivity>.
4. Michael Luca, Deepak Malhotra, and Christopher Poliquin, "Handgun Waiting Periods Reduce Gun Deaths," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114, no. 46 (2017): 12162-12165
5. Michael D. Anestis and Joye C. Anestis, "Suicide Rates and State Laws Regulating Access and Exposure to Handguns," *American Journal of Public Health* 105, no. 10 (2015): 2049-2058.
6. Ann Givens and Andrew Knapp, "FBI to Add Major Law Enforcement Database to Gun Background Check System," *The Trace*, July 10, 2018, <https://www.thetrace.org/2018/07/fbi-background-check-system-nics-ndex-charleston> <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/gun-laws/state-law/50-state-summaries/waiting-periods-state-by-state/>