

# Resolution

## In Support of Gun Control Legislation

**Whereas, as the recent tragic gun murders in a Colorado theater make so clear, there are too many victims of gun violence because we make it too easy for dangerous people to get dangerous weapons in America.** In one year on average, almost 100,000 people in America are shot or killed with a gun. Last year, 31,593 people died from gun violence and 66,769 people survived gun injuries according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

That includes: 12,179 people murdered and 44,466 people shot in an attack. 18,223 people who killed themselves and 3,031 people who survived a suicide attempt with a gun. 592 people who were killed unintentionally and 18,610 who were shot unintentionally but survived.

**Whereas, over a million people have been killed with guns in the United States since 1968,** when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated.

**Whereas, U.S. homicide rates are 6.9 times higher than rates in 22 other populous high-income countries combined,** despite similar non-lethal crime and violence rates. The firearm homicide rate in the U.S. is 19.5 times higher. Among 23 populous, high-income countries, 80% of all firearm deaths occurred in the United States.

**Whereas, gun violence impacts society in countless ways:** medical costs, costs of the criminal justice system, security precautions such as security guards and metal detectors, and reductions in quality of life because of fear of gun violence. These impacts are estimated to cost U.S. citizens \$100 billion annually.

**Whereas, where there are more guns, there are more gun deaths.** An estimated 41% of gun-related homicides and 94% of gun-related suicides would not occur under the same circumstances had no guns been present. Higher household gun ownership correlates with higher rates of homicide, suicide, and unintentional shootings.

**Whereas, guns are more likely to raise the risk of injury than to confer protection.** A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used in a completed or attempted suicide, or unintentional shooting death or injury than to be used in a self-defense shooting. According to the FBI, every year there are only about 200 legally justified self-defense homicides by private citizens compared with over 30,000 gun deaths.

**Whereas, assaults and suicide attempts with firearms are much more likely to be fatal than those perpetrated with less lethal weapons or means.** Removing guns saves lives. There are five times as many deaths from gun assaults as from knife assaults, where the rates of assault with knives and with guns are similar. More than 90 percent of suicide attempts with a gun are fatal. In comparison, only 3 percent of attempts with drugs or cutting are fatal.

**Whereas, guns can be sold in the United States without a background check to screen out criminals or the mentally ill.** It is estimated that over forty percent of gun acquisitions occur in the secondary market. That means that they happen without a Brady background check at a federally licensed dealer. Sales between individuals, under federal law, do not require a background check. This means that felons can “lie and buy” at gun shows and other places where guns are readily available.



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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club** strongly urges our city, state, and federal elected officials to make it harder for convicted felons, the dangerously mentally ill, and other prohibited persons to obtain guns by implementing strong gun laws and policies that will protect our families and communities from gun violence.

**More specifically, we support** establishment of a state and nationwide universal background checking system that includes retention of purchase records, limiting handgun purchases to one per month (as a starting point to set purchase limits of one per year as a longer-term objective), a ban on the purchase of assault weapon ammunition clips, and a re-instatement of the national ban on the purchase of military-style assault weapons – all as a roadmap to reducing the flow of dangerous weapons and ammunition and to reducing gun violence.

**We support** requirements for all gun and ammunition sales' websites to take simple steps to stop illegal sales: requiring sellers to register with the site before listing guns for sale on-line, requiring buyers to register with the site before contacting gun sellers, establishing a practical method to identify suspicious purchase orders, and requiring websites to audit their own activities.

**We support** legislation to prohibit gun and ammunition purchases without the buyer providing a written reason for the purchase, providing a copy of a psychological evaluation by an approved professional psychologist, certified training in the use of the weapon itself and in situational training in the circumstances in which the weapon might be used.

Submitted by,

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club

*Steven Skyles-Mulligan*

Steven Skyles-Mulligan, President

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