

Time for Action

Policy options for municipalities limiting the risk of gun violence in their communities are limited. Policy makers with numerous options serve at state and federal levels of government. In Colorado, the Governor and State Legislators drafted and implemented initial common-sense gun safety legislation while protecting 2nd Amendment rights of Coloradans to possess firearms.

Longmont's City Council appreciates the steps taken by state-level leadership. The actions of Colorado's Governor and legislature while necessary, are insufficient. We are calling on Colorado's Congressional representatives to follow the lead of state-level leaders, working together, to draft and pass comprehensive gun safety legislation so that risks of gun violence are reduced for all Coloradans.

Pain, suffering, and loss from increasing gun violence in America is felt at the local level. Reducing risks of gun violence through comprehensive common-sense gun safety legislation is only possible if Congress musters the courage to do the job they were elected to do at the federal level which is to protect constitutional rights – AND – reduces risks to people living in the United States.

Members of Congress, we implore you to do what is necessary, sufficient, and responsible to protect the lives of everyone living in the United States of America; pass comprehensive, common-sense gun safety legislation NOW!

Resolution on Gun Safety

Whereas, 100 Americans are killed and hundreds more injured by guns every day in the United States. (*Everytown for Gun Safety*)

Whereas, nearly two thirds of gun deaths are suicides (1) which is 10 times that of other high-income countries. (2)

Whereas, gun ownership increases the risk of death by suicide by 300%. (3)

Whereas, one-third of gun deaths are homicides (4) and the U.S. gun homicide rate is 25 times that of other high-income countries. (5)

Whereas, firearms are the second leading cause of death for American children and teens and the first leading cause of death for Black children and teens. (6)

Whereas, nearly 1700 children and teens die from gun homicide every year. (7)

Whereas, Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than white children and teens of the same ages to die by gun homicide. (8)

Whereas, women in the U.S. are 21 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than women in other high-income countries. (9)

Whereas, in an average month 52 American women are shot to death by an intimate partner and many more injured. (10)

Whereas, nearly one million women alive today have been shot (11) or shot at by an intimate partner. (12)

Whereas, access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. (13)

Whereas, 58 percent of American adults or someone they care for have experienced gun violence in their lifetimes. (14)

Whereas, approximately three million American children witness gun violence every year. (15)

Whereas, between January 1 and August 11, 2019 there were 34,208 gun related incidents in the U. S. and in those incidents:

- 9060 people died
- 17,954 people were injured
- 403 children under the age of 11 were killed
- 1,876 teens between the ages of 12 and 17 were killed
- 256 mass shootings occurred
- 191 law enforcement officers were killed. (16)

Whereas, the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to possess a firearm.

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court held that "like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. It is not the right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose...The Court's opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." (17)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF LONGMONT:

The City Council of Longmont respects second amendment protection of the right of U.S. citizens to possess firearms.

Longmont's City Council strongly encourages Colorado's Governor, elected members of the State Legislature, and United States Congress to actively support common sense gun safety legislation that includes some combination of the following provisions:

- Required state issued permits for gun ownership.
- Universal background checks on all sales, including the private sale of firearms*.
- State issued permits for concealed carry*.
- State issued permits for concealed carry within a vehicle*.
- Banning the personal sale or purchase of military grade weapons by non-military personnel.
- Limits on magazine capacity*.
- Required gun locks that enable only permitted gun owners to fire a weapon.
- Prohibitions of gun ownership by convicted felons and individuals convicted of domestic abuse.
- Red flagging individuals who have given family members and/or law enforcement reasons for concern about their mental and emotional stability*.

Longmont's City Council calls on elected members of the State Legislature and United States Congress to expeditiously authorize programs expanding and funding mental health resources at county and municipal levels of government to reduce risks of bullying, suicide, and domestic abuse. And the Mayor should forward this resolution to our state and federal elected representatives conveying the City Council's interest in reducing risks of gun violence through common sense gun safety legislation.

Notes/references

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2013 to 2017.
2. Grinshteyn E, Hemenway D. Violent death rates in the US compared to those of the other high-income countries, 2015. *Preventive Medicine*. 2019; 123: 20-26.
3. Anglemyer A, Horvath T, Rutherford G. The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2014; 160(2): 101-110.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury

Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2013 to 2017. Homicide includes legal intervention.

5. Grinshteyn E, Hemenway D. Violent death rates in the US compared to those of the other high-income countries, 2015. *Preventive Medicine*. 2019; 123: 20-26.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports.
7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2013 to 2017. Analysis includes: ages 0 to 19, and homicide including legal intervention.
8. Fowler KA, Dahlberg LL, Haileyesus T, Gutierrez C, Bacon S. Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. *American Academy of Pediatrics*. 2017; 140(1): e20163486.
9. Grinshteyn E, Hemenway D. Violent death rates in the US compared to those of the other high-income countries, 2015. *Preventive Medicine*. 2019; 123: 20-26.
10. Uniform Crime Reporting Program: Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 2013 to 2017. Washington, DC: Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. While the FBI SHR does not include data from the state of Florida for the years 2013 to 2017, Everytown obtained data directly from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and included the reported homicides in the analysis. Whereas SHR includes both current and former partners in its relationship designations, FDLE does not include former partners. As a result, Florida's intimate partner violence data only includes current partners.
11. Sorenson SB, Schut RA. Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*. 2016; 1524838016668589.
12. Ibid. See also: Tjaden P, Thoennes T. *Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2000.
13. Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, et al. Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003; 93(7): 1089-1097.
14. SurveyUSA Market Research Study. Data collected from December 7, 2018 to December 11, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2ExxpyZ>. See question 39.
15. Finkelhor D, Turner HA, Shattuck A, Hamby SL. Prevalence of childhood exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: Results from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. *The Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics*. 2015; 169(8): 746-754. Everytown analysis derives the 3 million number by multiplying the share of children (ages 0-17) who are exposed to shootings per year (4.2%) by the total child population of the U.S. in 2016 (~73.5M).
16. Gun Violence Archive website
17. Wikipedia

*These provisions already exist in Colorado.

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