

2015 Resolution No: 1

Submitted by: Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston, Massachusetts

Resolution Supporting Common Sense Gun Laws That Protect Victims of Domestic Violence And Opposing Firearms Legislation That Threatens Public Safety

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities mayors serve is municipal leaders' highest responsibility;

WHEREAS, every day, 88 Americans are killed by gun violence, and Americans are 20 times more likely to be murdered with guns than people in other developed countries;

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people;

WHEREAS, American women are at elevated risk of firearm violence, and are 11 times more likely to be shot and killed than women in other developed countries;

WHEREAS, the presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that domestic abuse will culminate in homicide;

WHEREAS, states that have laws restricting access to firearms by abusers subject to domestic violence restraining orders see a 25% reduction in intimate partner homicides;

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe;

WHEREAS, state firearm preemption laws prohibit local governments from adopting reasonable gun laws tailored to local conditions, and prevent mayors, municipal councils and law enforcement officers from enacting, maintaining and enforcing reasonable firearms regulations as allowed under the Constitution of the United States;

WHEREAS, dangerous firearm preemption laws proposed or enacted in recent years impose punitive penalties on local officials who seek to reduce gun violence, while incentivizing individuals and groups to sue such officials, and requiring local taxpayers to bear the costs of such vexatious litigation;

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement understand that ensuring the safety of children in schools is a duty of the utmost, critical importance;

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement recognize that trained law enforcement officers and

professional security officers are the best positioned to provide armed security and protect children in schools, and that asking teachers and other private citizens to double as sharpshooters will detract from schools' educational mission; and

WHEREAS, our schools should be places where students safely learn reading, math, and science, and not how to duck and cover;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong support for laws that prohibit persons convicted of domestic violence crimes, including violent misdemeanors, or subject to final domestic violence restraining orders from acquiring or possessing firearms, and for laws that require prohibited domestic abusers to turn in firearms they already own, and urges that states lacking such laws enact them promptly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong opposition to legislation that would threaten women's lives by facilitating the acquisition and possession of firearms by dangerous domestic abusers who have been convicted of domestic violence crimes or are subject to final domestic violence restraining orders;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that mayors and local law enforcement are best positioned to adopt reasonable firearm regulations tailored to local conditions, and therefore that laws imposing punitive penalties on or authorizing lawsuits against local officials who seek to reduce gun violence threaten public safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong opposition to state firearm preemption laws that encourage lawsuits against local officials who seek to reduce gun violence and that require local taxpayers to bear the costs of such vexatious litigation; and, finally,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong opposition to proposals to allow teachers and other non-law enforcement, non-security personnel to carry firearms in K-12 schools.