

Resolution to Address Gun Violence

WHEREAS, the number of mass shootings across the country continues to grow, including most recently in a Buffalo supermarket, a Uvalde fourth grade classroom, a Tulsa medical center, and more;

WHEREAS, we continue to face the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in our state and our nation;

WHEREAS, guns are now the leading cause of the death of children;

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to be killed by guns than those in other developed nations;

WHEREAS, every day, more than 110 Americans are killed and more than 200 are wounded by guns;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia averages more than 1,000 gun deaths every year;

WHEREAS, the previous Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in 2019 that urged members of the General Assembly to support commonsense gun legislation during a special session;

WHEREAS, since that time, the General Assembly has enacted a number of measures, including those requiring background checks for any firearm sale, allowing for “extreme risk protective orders,” banning bump stocks, limiting child access to firearms, restoring Virginia’s “one-gun-a-month” law, and granting localities the authority to regulate firearms in government buildings, parks, recreation centers, and at permitted events;

WHEREAS, despite this progress, stronger action is needed at the state and federal levels of government to allow local governments to enact commonsense gun safety measures in our communities;

WHEREAS, the most recent General Assembly session saw bills introduced that sought to overturn the sweeping gun reform work done previously by the state;

WHEREAS, we must properly address the preventable devastation of gun violence in our communities and we will wait no longer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors urges the members of the General Assembly to support commonsense gun safety legislation as quickly as possible, including:

- A ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and armor piercing ammunition;
- Authority for localities to ban the possession of pneumatic guns on school grounds, with an exemption for school-sponsored activities (pneumatic guns use pump action or carbon dioxide gas cartridges to fire explosives, often strongly resemble firearms, and can cause serious injury or death);
- Support for community violence intervention programs (in the 2021 Special Session II, the General Assembly provided additional funding for gun violence reduction programs and youth and gang violence intervention efforts, which could potentially support community violence intervention programs);
- Consider increasing the age limit for buying certain weapons;
- Consider regulating ghost gun parts, ensuring they cannot be sold without serial numbers and a background check; and
- Stronger local authority to allow counties, cities, and towns to enact their own gun safety policies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors urges the members of the United States Congress to:

- Enact gun safety measures, including reinstating the assault weapons ban and requiring universal background checks.