

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE (CCDC), PA

URGING STATE AND FEDERAL LAWMAKERS TO ENACT STRONGER PROTECTIONS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, our nation continues to experience significant harm from gun violence, and that the easy availability of firearms is an important factor, we look to our broader community of lawmakers to do their part to help curb the gun violence impacting our nation; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania does not require private sellers (sellers who are not federally-licensed dealers) to initiate a background check before transferring a firearm; and

WHEREAS, the CCDC feels that this state and nation can protect the lives of its citizens and at the same time recognize and protect gun owners' Second Amendment rights; and

WHEREAS, the CCDC supports securing the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Chester County PA, yet is not recognized as having legal authority to enact gun safety laws; and

WHEREAS, an average of more than 108,000 people are shot and 32,514 people die from gun violence in murders, assaults, suicides and suicide attempts, unintended shootings and police intervention in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS, the CCDC supports our police force in its ability to protect the safety of the citizens, and visitors to, the County without threat from assault weapons or armed criminals, and

WHEREAS, the CCDC recognizes the Second Amendment and the rights therein, such as the right to individual gun ownership and the right to self-defense, it also recognizes that said rights are not unlimited and support reasonable measures to ensure greater safety in the ownership, procurement and use of guns in our society; and

WHEREAS, 19 children will die or receive emergency treatment for a gunshot wound in the U.S today and that 91% of all children who die from firearms in high-income countries across the world come from the United States, and guns are the third leading cause of death for all children between ages 1 and 17.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester County Democratic Committee (CCDC) calls upon legislators in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate to enact laws to reduce gun violence, including:

Preventing known and suspected terrorists, those convicted of violent hate crimes and those with a history of domestic abuse from illegally buying guns.

Ensuring that background checks are required on all sales, including online and at gun shows. In Pennsylvania, preserve the provisions of the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) which provides instant access to background records.

Require trigger locks on all firearms in houses where children are present.

Ban access to assault-style weapons.

Reduce the number of permissible cartridges in a clip or magazine.

We believe that these steps can be taken without infringing upon the use of firearms for legitimate hunting or other sporting purposes.

This resolution shall be distributed to current individuals holding the offices of:

President of the United States;

Governor of Pennsylvania;

United States Senator from Pennsylvania;

United States Congressman from the 6th Congressional District of Pennsylvania;

Pennsylvania State Senator from the 19th and 26th and 44th Senatorial District

Pennsylvania State representatives from the 13th, 26th, 74th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 160th, 167th Legislative Districts

Chester County Commissioners

[passed by the CCDC Executive Committee, 2/28/18]