

House Resolution

No. 52

Introduced by Assembly Members Rendon and Gipson

May 17, 2016

House Resolution No. 52—Relative to National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

1 WHEREAS, Death and injury arising from firearm violence by
2 suicide, homicide, and unintentional shootings constitute a tragic
3 and substantial burden upon the citizens of the United States and
4 public health in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, According to data from the federal Centers for
6 Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States approximately
7 81,300 nonfatal injuries and 31,672 deaths involving guns occur
8 every year. That is about 308 shootings and 86 deaths every day,
9 with about 13 shootings and 4 deaths per hour; and

10 WHEREAS, Between 2005 and 2015, 71 Americans were killed
11 in terrorist attacks on United States soil, whereas 301,797 were
12 killed by gun violence during the same period; and

13 WHEREAS, Mass shootings draw widespread attention to
14 firearm violence from the media, the public, and policymakers but
15 account for less than 2 percent of the United States firearm-related
16 deaths that occur each year; and

17 WHEREAS, Patterns of injury and death from firearms differ
18 according to factors including age, gender, sexual orientation,
19 ethnicity, geographic region, educational level, employment status,
20 and social class; and

21 WHEREAS, In order to be developmentally and culturally
22 appropriate to relevant aspects of diversity, public policy and

1 prevention strategies must attend to the different relative risks,
2 occurrences, and contexts across groups; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2015, at least 756 American children were killed
4 by gunfire; and

5 WHEREAS, Young African American males living in
6 impoverished urban communities bear the greatest risk of homicide
7 by firearms, with African Americans almost eight times as likely
8 as Caucasians to be homicide victims; and

9 WHEREAS, Women are disproportionately more likely to be
10 the victims of firearm violence by an intimate partner as domestic
11 violence assaults in which firearms are used 12 times more likely
12 to result in death than domestic violence assaults in which firearms
13 are not used; and

14 WHEREAS, Firearms are the most frequent means of suicide
15 among older adult Caucasian men and contribute to their very high
16 suicide rate. Across the United States, suicides account for nearly
17 two-thirds of all gun deaths; and

18 WHEREAS, Gun homicide is the second leading cause of death
19 among Asian American youth in California; and

20 WHEREAS, 100,000 students carry a gun to school each day;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, African Americans die due to gun violence at a
23 rate of 19.4 per 100,000, Hispanics at 5.3 per 100,000, and
24 Caucasians at a rate of 2.5 per 100,000; and

25 WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public
26 awareness of this serious issue and that more is done to increase
27 public awareness at the local, state, and national levels; and

28 WHEREAS, As with motor vehicles, toxic household products,
29 tobacco, and other products with inherent risks whose harms to
30 the public health have been significantly reduced, firearms pose
31 inherent risks that have been identified and can be addressed
32 through a public health approach; and

33 WHEREAS, This resolution seeks to inspire a necessary
34 discussion in our communities about resources to reduce gun
35 violence and improve our state's programs in prevention,
36 intervention, education, and outreach; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
38 Legislature recognizes June 2, 2016, as National Gun Violence
39 Awareness Day; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature commends the work of the Wear
2 Orange Campaign, the American Psychological Association, the
3 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and other organizations
4 working to raise awareness about gun violence across America;
5 and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages research, public health
7 programs, and public policy to address the full breadth of firearm
8 fatalities and injuries; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages the further
10 development and evaluation of policy interventions for firearm
11 violence across the full life span of firearms, from design and
12 manufacture to use; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
14 of this resolution to California's middle schools and hospitals.