

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**House Resolution**

**No. 52**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Rendon and Gipson**

May 17, 2016

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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

1 WHEREAS, In order to be developmentally and culturally  
2 appropriate to relevant aspects of diversity, public policy and  
3 prevention strategies must attend to the different relative risks,  
4 occurrences, and contexts across groups; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2015, at least 756 American children were killed  
6 by gunfire; and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, 100,000 students carry a gun to school each day;  
23 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 *Resolved, That the*~~Legislature~~ *Assembly encourages research,*  
10 *public health programs, and public policy to address the full*  
11 *breadth of firearm fatalities and injuries; and be it further*

12 *Resolved, That the*~~Legislature~~ *Assembly encourages the further*  
13 *development and evaluation of policy interventions for firearm*  
14 *violence across the full life span of firearms, from design and*  
15 *manufacture to use; and be it further*

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