

Resolution For Ending the Moratorium on Gun Violence Research

WHEREAS gun violence, including homicides and suicides, claims the lives of more than 30,000 Americans each year, and more Americans have been killed by guns in the last 48 years than in all U.S. wars combined;

WHEREAS deaths from gun violence far outnumber deaths by terrorism in the U.S. and overseas;

WHEREAS American children are fourteen times more likely to die from firearm-related injuries on average than children in other developed nations;

WHEREAS mass shootings in America continue to occur at an alarming and unconscionable rate;

WHEREAS gun violence in the U.S. is estimated to cost the nation at least \$229 billion in healthcare costs and lost productivity every year;

WHEREAS a society that has the right to bear arms, has a concomitant obligation to do all that it can to mitigate the harms that result from that freedom;

WHEREAS the U.S. Congress moratorium on gun violence research ratified in 1996 has stymied research by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), among others, into the causes and potential solutions for America's epidemic of gun violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Benton County Democrats, call upon the U.S. Congressional leadership to immediately end the moratorium on gun violence research by the CDC and the NIH, and provide the funding necessary to effectively address America's scourge of gun violence.

Submitted by Richard Badalamente to the Benton County Democrats April 23, 2016.

Much of this resolution was based on facts and figures contained in an essay by Pranav Aurora and Tristan Jones, in Voices in Bioethics, <https://voicesinbioethics.org/2016/01/29/a-new-year-a-new-perspective-reframing-the-national-dialogue-on-gun-control-and-gun-violence-research/>