
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 44 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, KIRKLAND, HOHENSTEIN, SANCHEZ, N. NELSON,
PARKER, HILL-EVANS, FIEDLER, FRANKEL, A. DAVIS, SCHWEYER,
ISAACSON, SCHLOSSBERG, KINKEAD AND WARREN, FEBRUARY 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing gun violence in Pennsylvania as a public health
2 crisis.

3 WHEREAS, Gun violence is a public health crisis that demands
4 a comprehensive response as more than 1,500 residents of this
5 Commonwealth die by a firearm every year and 76% of all
6 homicides in this Commonwealth are carried out with a firearm;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, As of 2018, more residents of this Commonwealth died
9 by firearms than in car accidents, and while the number of
10 deaths in car accidents continues to decline because of safety
11 regulations and public outreach, firearms deaths have increased;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Firearm violence increased by more than 25% in 2020
14 in Philadelphia; and

15 WHEREAS, Children under 15 years of age in the United States
16 are 12 times more likely to be killed by a gun than children in
17 other industrialized countries and exposure to gun violence can

1 have a lasting traumatic effect on children; and

2 WHEREAS, Sixty-two percent of firearm deaths in this
3 Commonwealth are suicides; and

4 WHEREAS, Suicides are largely impulsive and preventable,
5 since 71% of individuals who attempt suicide decided to do so
6 within an hour of making the decision; and

7 WHEREAS, Beyond the human toll and loss of life, gun violence
8 costs the Commonwealth \$8.5 billion every year in health care,
9 lost income and other expenses; and

10 WHEREAS, The same public health approach can be taken with
11 gun violence as the public health approach taken in numerous
12 other areas to promote safety, including vehicle safety and
13 accident prevention and smoking prevention and adverse health
14 impact awareness; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has recognized gun
16 violence as a public health crisis and has called on state
17 governments to enact gun safety legislation; and

18 WHEREAS, Gun violence kills and injures thousands of
19 residents of this Commonwealth every year and has a lasting
20 effect on the loved ones of victims who suffer with
21 psychological effects, including high rates of PTSD and
22 substance abuse; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
24 epidemic of gun violence is a public health crisis that requires
25 a comprehensive and urgent public health response to reduce the
26 number of firearm-related incidents.