

RESOLUTION
By Gordon

Supporting Congressional funding for gun violence research

Whereas, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 51,377 incidents of gun violence in the United States in 2014, resulting in 12,518 deaths and 22,886 injuries; and

Whereas in the United States in 2013, 1,670 children (under 18 years of age) died from gunshots and an additional 9,718 were injured; and

Whereas suicide and homicide are the second and third leading causes of death among young people under 24 years of age; and

Whereas, in 2014, guns were responsible for 88% of the homicides and 44% of the suicides for people under 24 year of age in the United States; and

Whereas, a mass shooting at Accent Signage Systems in Minneapolis on September 27, 2012 ultimately claimed the lives of seven people, including the gunman; and

Whereas, 89% of homicides of people under 24 years of age in Minneapolis in 2015 were committed with handguns; and

Whereas, of the 49 homicides in Minneapolis in 2015, 39 were committed with firearms; and

Whereas, in Minneapolis in 2015 there were 256 victims of gunshot wounds; and

Whereas a total of 821 guns were taken off the street by Minneapolis Police in 2015 with 681 of them taken as evidence involving a crime; and

Whereas African American youth have 20 times, and Latinos 10 times, the homicide rate of non-Latino White youth; and

Whereas, gun violence has once again become the focus of national attention, with recent mass shootings in San Bernardino, at the Umpqua Community College in Oregon, and at a the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina; and

Whereas, according to Mother Jones' *A Guide to Mass Shootings in America*, there have been at least 73 mass shootings in this country since 1982, defined as an incident that killed at least four people in a public place; and

Whereas, while mass shootings tend to dominate media coverage, there are gun violence injuries occurring every day in many American cities; and

Whereas, in 1996, Congress passed an amendment to restrict federal funding for gun violence research; and

Whereas, dubbed the Dickey Amendment after its author, former U.S. Representative Jay Dickey, it remains in effect today and prohibits funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) to be used “to advocate or promote gun control”; and

Whereas, although the language of the amendment allows funding for research not aimed at advocacy for gun control, in effect it has been interpreted such that no research related to gun violence is funded through the CDC; and

Whereas, in recent years, former Rep. Dickey has publicly expressed his regrets for having authored this amendment; and

Whereas, in a December 1, 2015 letter to U.S. Representative Mike Thompson, Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, Rep. Dickey stated that “research could have been continued on gun violence without infringing on the rights of gun owners, in the same fashion that the highway industry continued its research [on how to reduce head-on collisions on highways] without eliminating the automobile”; and

Whereas, Rep. Dickey also stated in the letter that “scientific research should help answer how we can best reduce gun violence... Doing nothing is no longer an acceptable solution”; and

Whereas, momentum is building to restore funding to the CDC for gun violence research; and

Whereas, in 2012, in the aftermath of the shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, President Barack Obama instructed the CDC to strictly interpret the Dickey Amendment-so that the restriction is on advocacy, not research; and

Whereas, in June 2015, U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney and U.S. Senator Edward Markey introduced H.R. 2612/S.1473, respectively, to authorize the appropriation of at least \$10 million a year to the CDC for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention; and

Whereas, in October 2015, addressing the nation after the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, President Obama said, “We spent over a trillion dollars and passed countless laws and devote entire agencies to preventing terrorist attacks on our soil, and rightfully so. And yet we have a Congress who explicitly blocks us from even collecting data on how we could potentially reduce gun deaths”; and

Whereas, in November 2015, dozens of lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives signed a letter urging leaders of the Appropriations Committee to repeal the Dickey Amendment; and

Whereas, in early December of 2015, over 2,000 physicians from nine medical associations publicly urged Congress to repeal the Dickey Amendment, citing gun violence as a public health crisis;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis that the City of Minneapolis calls upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign legislation allowing, authorization and appropriation of congressional funding for gun violence research.