

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A 28TH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO ENSHRINE GUN SAFETY PRINCIPLES IN THE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, individuals with guns injure more than 100,000 people each year in the United States and kill more than 30,000 a year including through homicides, suicides, and accidents; and

WHEREAS, gun violence remains the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in the United States, according to the latest mortality data by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by gun violence;
and

WHEREAS, neighborhoods suffering from gun violence are typically the same areas that lack economic opportunity, adequate infrastructure, access to quality schools, and housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, every month, an average of 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence is a serious public health problem, and instances of severe physical violence and violence inflicted with a firearm are predominantly experienced by women with male partners; and

WHEREAS, the United States' gun homicide rate is 25 times higher than in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, government at all levels has a substantial interest in protecting the people from those who acquire guns lawfully or illegally and then use them to commit crimes resulting in injury or death of their victims, or who use them in the commission of other crimes such as robbery, sexual assault or homicide, particularly the many mass shootings such as those that have occurred in recent years in places such as Monterey Park, CA; Half Moon Bay, CA; Highland Park, IL; Tulsa, OK; Uvalde, TX; Buffalo, NY; San Jose, CA; Indianapolis, IN; Boulder, CO; El Paso, TX; Virginia, VA; Thousand Oaks, CA; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the County of San Mateo launched the San Mateo County Gun Violence Prevention Program to improve public safety by boosting efforts to remove guns from the hands of felons, stalkers, and other people prohibited from firearm possession, pledging \$2 million in funding over a two-year period; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed a 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution to enshrine fundamental, broadly supported gun safety measures into law, including:

- Raising the federal minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21;
- Mandating universal background checks to prevent truly dangerous people from purchasing a gun that could be used in a crime;
- Instituting a reasonable waiting period for all gun purchases;
- Barring civilian purchase of assault weapons that serve no other purpose than to kill as many people as possible in a short amount of time – weapons of war our nation’s founders never foresaw; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo seeks to protect all its residents and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County expresses support for a 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution to enshrine gun safety principles in the Constitution.

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