

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 104

Approved March 23, 2016

WHEREAS, According to the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence, nearly 300 Americans are victims of gun violence every day and 89 Americans die from gun violence every day; and

WHEREAS, According to the Council on Foreign Relations, there are more nine times as many firearm homicides per capita in the United States than in Canada; and

WHEREAS, While the United States has less than 5% of the world's population, our nation has about 35-50% of the world's civilian-owned guns, according to a 2007 report by the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey; and

WHEREAS, According to analysis from the University of Alabama, from 1966 to 2012, there were 90 public mass shootings in the United States, more than any other nation in the world and five times as many as the next closest country; and

WHEREAS, Despite these sobering statistics on gun violence in America, many gun violence prevention experts and advocates insist there is not enough research on best practices for reducing and preventing gun violence; and

WHEREAS, In the 1990s, Congressional efforts to prohibit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from studying gun violence and gun violence prevention were led by Congressman Jay Dickey of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Congress passed what became known as “the Dickey Amendment,” bringing CDC gun violence prevention research to a halt; and

WHEREAS, However, today, former Congressman Dickey is a strong advocate for a repeal of the amendment named after him; and

WHEREAS, Last December, Jay Dickey and Mark Rosenberg, former Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC and current president of the Task Force for Global Health, published an article in the Washington Post calling on Congress to repeal the Dickey Amendment and allow the CDC to study gun violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, In that article, they stated, “There is urgency to our task. Both of us now believe strongly that federal funding for research into gun-violence prevention should be dramatically increased”; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, they stressed that, “gun-violence research can be created, organized and conducted with two objectives: first, to preserve the rights of law-abiding citizens and legal gun owners and, second, to make our homes and communities safer. Well-structured research can be conducted to develop technologies and identify ways to achieve both objectives. We can get there only through research”; and

WHEREAS, On December 2nd, 2015, Doctors for America, the National Physicians Alliance, Doctors Council, American Medical Women's Association, American College of Preventive Medicine, the Committee of Interns and Residents, Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence, American Medical Student Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics released a joint statement urging Congress to repeal the ban on the ability of the CDC to conduct research on gun violence; and

WHEREAS, As public servants and the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the City Council has a moral obligation to advocate for policies that prevent violence and keep our residents safe.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby strongly urge Congress to repeal the Dickey Amendment and allow the U.S. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention to study gun violence and gun violence prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman David Cicilline, and Congressman James Langevin.


IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 17 2016

READ AND PASSED


PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE


Mayor
Date: 3/23/16