
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 291 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, HUGHES, SCHWANK AND LEACH, MARCH 28, 2018

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 28, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Congress of the United States repeal the
2 Dickey Amendment and supporting Federal funding for gun
3 violence research at the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention.

5 WHEREAS, Gun violence is a public health crisis that
6 continues to plague the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the
7 nation; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2017, the United States saw a total of 346 mass
9 shooting incidents; and

10 WHEREAS, An alarming number of mass shooting incidents, 46,
11 have occurred across the nation since January 1, 2018; and

12 WHEREAS, According to data from the Centers for Disease
13 Control and Prevention (CDC), the national death rate resulting
14 from firearms in 2016 was 11.8 deaths per 100,000 population;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 2016, the death rate resulting from firearms in
17 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 12 deaths per 100,000
18 population, was above the national average; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2016, neighboring states such as Delaware, New

1 Jersey, New York and Maryland had death rates resulting from
2 firearms below that of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

3 WHEREAS, The death rate resulting from firearms in the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as compiled by the CDC also
5 exceeded the national average in 2005, 2014 and 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, For the decade ending in 2010, 12,941 deaths by
7 firearm occurred in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a number
8 constituting the fourth highest in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had the
10 fifth highest rate of firearm-related deaths among children in
11 the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Every two days, three people in the Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania are killed by a firearm; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
15 Research Institute, there were 1,217 firearm-related injuries in
16 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly half of these injuries occurred among persons
18 under 25 years of age; and

19 WHEREAS, Between 2006 and 2015, more than 14,500 persons were
20 shot in the City of Philadelphia, a rate of one shooting every
21 six hours; and

22 WHEREAS, During that period, approximately 83% of homicide
23 deaths in the City of Philadelphia were due to firearms; and

24 WHEREAS, Public Law 104-208 was enacted on September 30,
25 1996; and

26 WHEREAS, This Federal statute includes a provision
27 restricting the use of Federal funding for the CDC: "Provided
28 further, That none of the funds made available for injury
29 prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and
30 Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control"; and

1 WHEREAS, This restriction on the use of CDC funds is referred
2 to as the Dickey Amendment; and

3 WHEREAS, Under the Dickey Amendment, the CDC has ceased its
4 research into the root causes of gun violence in the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, In an October 2015 National Public Radio interview,
7 former Representative Jay Dickey of Arkansas, the sponsor of the
8 Dickey Amendment, stated his regret that the amendment cut off
9 gun violence research and went on to clarify his intent that the
10 amendment not prohibit this research; and

11 WHEREAS, Government funding of research and the compilation
12 of data and other scientific evidence identifying the root
13 causes of gun violence is critical to providing Federal, State
14 and local policymakers with a foundation on which to make
15 informed decisions when crafting sound gun violence prevention
16 policies and programs; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 request that the Congress of the United States repeal the Dickey
19 Amendment and reauthorize the CDC to research the root causes of
20 gun violence in the United States; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate
23 and the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States
24 House of Representatives; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
26 the Governor of Pennsylvania and the members of the Pennsylvania
27 Congressional Delegation.