

Resolution of the San Francisco Democratic Party

Calling Upon the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the State Legislature to Take Immediate Action to Reduce Gun Violence in America

WHEREAS, there is a crisis of gun-related violence in California and the United States, as demonstrated by the mass shootings in communities such as Newtown, Tucson, Aurora, and Virginia Tech, and as described in the Addendum attached hereto and incorporated herein; and there is no legitimate purpose for civilians to own or use military-style weapons or large ammunition magazines or drums, which constitute a demonstrated threat to the general public, health and safety;

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco and the State of California have a compelling interest in comprehensive regulations at the federal and state levels to address this crisis of violence, and a federal ban on assault weapons is critical to provide national consistency and prevent individuals from bringing these firearms into California from a state where they are not banned; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2013, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, which would ban the sale, transfer, importation or manufacturing of 120 specifically-named firearms, certain other firearms that can accept a detachable magazine and have one or more military characteristics, and semiautomatic rifles and handguns with a fixed magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds; strengthen the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and various state bans by moving from a 2-characteristic test to a 1-characteristic test and banning firearms with thumbhole stocks and bullet buttons to address attempts to “work around” prior bans; and require that grandfathered weapons be registered under the National Firearms Act; NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Democratic Party commends Senator Dianne Feinstein for her courage in introducing the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013, and calls upon the 113th U.S. Congress to: (1) approve the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013; (2) close the “private sale loophole” in the Brady Act so that people who buy firearms from private sellers are required to undergo background checks; (3) enact a Federal Registry of Lost or Stolen Firearms to deter the theft of guns and the use of stolen guns to commit violent crimes; (4) enact a law requiring lost or stolen firearms to be reported to law enforcement officials and requiring sellers of second hand firearms to check a Federal Registry of Lost or Stolen Firearms prior to sale; and (5) enact a law requiring firearms be secured or locked inside a dwelling, residence or business when it is unoccupied; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Democratic Party also supports AB 48 by Assembly Member Nancy Skinner and SB 53 by State Senator Kevin de León (both regulating ammunition sales), SB 108 by State Senator Leland Yee (mandating safe storage of firearms), SB 47 by State Senator Leland Yee (expanding the definition of “assault weapon” under California law), AB 231 by Assembly Member Phil Ting (requiring gun liability insurance), AB 232 by Assembly Member Phil Ting (tax credit for gun buybacks), and SB 140 by State Senator Mark Leno and Senate President *pro tem* Darrell Steinberg (improving enforcement of the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS) which identifies and tracks handgun and assault weapon owners who pose a threat to public safety).

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ADDENDUM
To the Resolution of the San Francisco Democratic Party
Calling Upon the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to Take Immediate Action to Reduce
Gun Violence in America

The following findings are hereby incorporated into the attached resolution:

1. The United States has by far the highest per capita rate of firearm-related murders of all developed countries. Many communities in the United States such as Newtown, Connecticut; Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Oak Creek, Wisconsin; Aurora and Columbine, Colorado, and Blacksburg, Virginia (Virginia Tech); have seen horrific loss of life due to mass shootings, some of which have involved military-style assault weapons with high capacity ammunition magazines.

2. There is no legitimate purpose for civilians to own or use military-style weapons or large ammunition magazines or drums. The availability to civilians of military-style assault weapons with large ammunition magazines or drums allows persons who wish to do harm to cause enormous damage – much more so than would be possible if these types of weapons were unavailable.

3. According to the FBI, there were 1,790 homicides in California in 2011, 68% of which were committed with firearms, including military-style assault weapons and stolen firearms. In 2012, there were at least 67 homicides in the City and County of San Francisco, the vast majority of which were committed with firearms.

4. On July 1, 1993, a mass shooting at 101 California Street in San Francisco claimed the lives of nine people, sparking a number of legislative actions that led to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (commonly referred to as the Federal Assault Weapons Ban) of 1994, prohibiting the sale of certain weapons in order to reduce street violence in the United States.

5. A 1997 U.S. Department of Justice study found that the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban was responsible for a 6.7% decrease in total gun murders, holding all other factors equal. The Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 expired in 2004, through the operation of a sunset provision.

6. Seven states, including California, have enacted laws banning assault weapons, and the District of Columbia and five large cities in the United States have local laws banning assault weapons; however, a federal ban on assault weapons is critical to provide consistency and prevent individuals from bringing these firearms into California from a state where they are not banned.