

Resolutions of the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church relating to the prevention and reduction of gun violence in the United States

[A166 Registration of Firearms; Licensing of Firearm Sellers, Buyers, and Users; Use of Taggants](#)

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention reaffirm the gun violence resolutions of previous General Conventions and the Executive Council as summarized in Policy for Action; An Index of Episcopal Church Public Policy Resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention acknowledge that the right to life is one of the unalienable rights on which the Republic is based; that the right to bear arms is guaranteed by the Constitution; that our unalienable and Constitutional rights are not absolute; and that governments must balance gun ownership and control of violence with the duty to ensure security and public safety; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention strongly urge federal, state, and local, governments to pass objective, shall-issue licensing laws for sellers, buyers, and users of firearms that require a waiting period, finger printing, background check, mental health evaluation, minimum age of purchaser, training tailored to the firearm being purchased and include the proper use, maintenance, and safe storage of the firearm and that said license must be renewed periodically; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention strongly urge the federal government to develop a system of gun registration that links domestically manufactured and imported firearms by serial number to the manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, original owner, and all subsequent owners and that all of the individuals in this chain of ownership must be licensed as outlined in the previous resolve above; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention strongly urge the federal government to work with manufacturers to develop nuclear barcode or other taggants and to require the use of these taggants in gunpowder so that the manufacturer and chain of distribution of batches of gunpowder may be traced; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be referred to the Executive Council, the Office of Government Relations, the President of the United States, members of the Federal Congress, and all dioceses for appropriate action.

[B004 Commending Safe Gun Storage](#)

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention commend safe gun storage practices and support lethal means safety counseling that can prevent suicides, homicides, and unintentional gun deaths and firearm injuries; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention urge dioceses and congregations to distribute to members of their congregations and communities information and materials that promote the safe storage of all firearms; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention urge federal, state, and local officials to support Ethan's Law and other legislation and policies that would create federal, state, and local incentives and requirements for safe gun storage; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention urge federal, state, and local officials to support legislation and policies that prevent children's access to guns and impose penalties on adults who allow unsecured guns to be accessed by children; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention commend legislation and policies that offer gun owners a secure place to store firearms in times of crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Government Relations, Episcopal Public Policy Network, dioceses, congregations, and individual Episcopalians be encouraged to advocate for increased education and funding for safe storage practices, legislation, and policies.

[D011 The Prohibition of Assault Weapons](#)

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirm Resloution 2015-C005;and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention acknowledge that since the passage of 2015-C005, as a nation, we have experienced some of the worst mass killings in the world – such as the 2016 Pulse Night Club Shooting, the 2017 Las Vegas Strip Shooting and the 2022 Uvalde School Shooting; and it be further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention strongly urge the United States Congress to ban, except for military and law enforcement agencies, the possession of all military-style assault weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazines; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct, consistent with established policies and procedures, Executive Council to refer this resolution to the Office of Government Relations.

[D014 Declare Gun Violence a National Health Crisis](#)

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby urge Congress and all officials at the national, state, and local levels to work to have gun violence recognized and defined as a public health epidemic and national health crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge Congress and all officials at the national, state and local levels to work together, to enact legislation and promote policies that protect the rights of all Americans to live in safe environments free from gun violence, and to allocate sufficient funding for education, awareness and research; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge the reform of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to ensure equal access to benefits without discrimination to families in communities with higher-than-average rates of homicide, and designate funding to provide community-based mental health services and supports to families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, homicide and suicide; and be it further.

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council refer this Resolution to the Office of Government Relations, so that it may take all actions necessary to accomplish the intentions and purposes of this Resolution.