



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7  
 2180 Milvia Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704  
 PHONE 510-981-7170, FAX 510-981-7177, EMAIL  
 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

### CONSENT CALENDAR

February 9, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington  
 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin  
 Councilmember Susan Wengraf

Subject: Support H.R. 2612 and S. 1473 to Fund Federal Gun Violence Research and Send a Letter to President Barack Obama and Senator Diane Feinstein

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution calling upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, H.R.2612/S.1473, in relation to congressional funding for gun violence research.

### BACKGROUND

The Berkeley City Council has had a long history of supporting gun control measures at the local, state and national levels. As gun violence continues to plague communities across the United States, it is important to grant the Center for Disease Control funding to research firearm safety or gun violence prevention.

H.R. 2612 is co-sponsored by 33 members of the U.S. House of Representative, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee. S 1473 is co-sponsored by 14 U.S. Senators, including Senator Barbara Boxer.

For Congressional Bill information:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2612/text>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1473/text>

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

Attachment:

1. Resolution
2. Letters to President Barack Obama and Senator Diane Feinstein

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S

CALLING UPON CONGRESS TO PASS, AND THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN, H.R.2612/S.1473, IN RELATION TO CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH

WHEREAS, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 51,377 incidents of gun violence in the United States in 2014, resulting in 12,518 deaths and 22,886 injuries; and

WHEREAS, gun violence has once again become the focus of national attention, with recent mass shootings in San Bernardino, at the Umpqua Community College in Oregon, and at a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, according to Mother Jones' *A Guide to Mass Shootings in America*, there have been at least 73 mass shootings in this country since 1982, defined as an incident that killed at least four people in a public place; and

WHEREAS, while mass shootings tend to dominate media coverage, there are gun violence injuries occurring every day in many American cities; and

WHEREAS, data from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services show that New York City had 6,839 incidents of violent crime by firearm in 2014; and

WHEREAS, CompStat records from the New York City Police Department show that in New York City, there were 1,234 shooting victims this year through November; and

WHEREAS, the national debate on gun violence has been contentious for decades; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Congress passed an amendment to restrict federal funding for gun violence research; and

WHEREAS, dubbed the Dickey Amendment after its author, former U.S. Representative Jay Dickey, it remains in effect today and prohibits funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") to be used "to advocate or promote gun control"; and

WHEREAS, although the language of the amendment allows funding for research not aimed at advocacy for gun control, in effect it has been interpreted such that no research related to gun violence is funded through the CDC; and

WHEREAS, in a December 1, 2015 letter to U.S. Representative Mike Thompson, Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, Rep. Dickey stated that "research could have been continued on gun violence without infringing on the rights of gun owners, in the same fashion that the highway industry continued its research [on how to reduce head-on collisions on highways] without eliminating the automobile"; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Dickey also stated in the letter that “scientific research should help answer how we can best reduce gun violence... Doing nothing is no longer an acceptable solution”; and

WHEREAS, momentum is building to restore funding to the CDC for gun violence research; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, in the aftermath of the shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, President Barack Obama instructed the CDC to strictly interpret the Dickey Amendment-so that the restriction is on advocacy, not research; and

WHEREAS, in June 2015, U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney and U.S. Senator Edward Markey introduced H.R. 2612/S.1473, respectively, to authorize the appropriation of at least \$10 million a year to the CDC for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, in October 2015, addressing the nation after the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, President Obama said, “We spent over a trillion dollars and passed countless laws and devote entire agencies to preventing terrorist attacks on our soil, and rightfully so. And yet we have a Congress who explicitly blocks us from even collecting data on how we could potentially reduce gun deaths”; and

WHEREAS, in November 2015, dozens of lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives signed a letter urging leaders of the Appropriations Committee to repeal the Dickey Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in early December of 2015, over 2,000 physicians from nine medical associations publicly urged Congress to repeal the Dickey Amendment, citing gun violence as a public health crisis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council calls upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, H.R.2612/S.1473, in relation to congressional funding for gun violence research.

Dear President Obama

The Berkeley City Council requests that you support H.R. 2612 and S. 1473

The Berkeley City Council has had a long history of supporting gun control measures at the local, state and national levels. As gun violence continues to plague communities across the United States, it is important to grant the Center for Disease Control funding to research firearm safety or gun violence prevention.

Mass shootings to suicides by guns need to be studied and examined in order to best prevent deaths by guns. Granting the Center for Disease Control \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 is just the beginning of preventing the unnecessary deaths of innocent people.

We urge you to support and sign H.R. 2612 and S. 1473.

Respectfully,

The Berkeley City Council

Dear Senator Diane Feinstein,

The Berkeley City Council requests that you support and co-sponsor S. 1473.

The Berkeley City Council has had a long history of supporting gun control measures at the local, state and national levels. As gun violence continues to plague communities across the United States, it is important to grant the Center for Disease Control funding to research firearm safety or gun violence prevention.

Mass shootings to suicides by guns need to be studied and examined in order to best prevent deaths by guns. Granting the Center for Disease Control \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 is just the beginning of preventing the unnecessary deaths of innocent people.

We urge you to support and co-sponsor S. 1473.

Respectfully,

The Berkeley City Council