

## **General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report**

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D014  
**Title:** Declare Gun Violence a National Health Crisis  
**Proposer:** McDaniel, Mr. Joe  
**Topic:** Gun Control, Health, Violence

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2022-B006 Advocate for State-Level Gun Violence Prevention  
2022-B007 Advocate for Funding to Support Community Violence Intervention Programs  
2018-B005 Advocate for Study of Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis

### **Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-A210 Express Gratitude for Bishops United Against Gun Violence  
2015-C005 Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D014 - Declare Gun Violence a National Health Crisis

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** McDaniel, Mr. Joe

**Endorsed by:** Mathis, Canon Jill, Bell, Ms. Alma

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** Yes

**Directs Executive Council:** Yes

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 07 - Social Justice & United States Policy

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

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 and to enact legislation and promote policies that protect the rights of all Americans to live in safe environments free from gun violence and allocating 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 and homicide; 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.

## **Explanation**

Over 30,000 lives are claimed by gun violence annually in the United States; and

African Americans suffer disproportionately from gun violence in the United States; and

African Americans are 14 times more likely to be killed with guns than whites, and among young black men, gun violence is the leading cause of death; and

Among whites, the predominant cause of firearm-related deaths is suicide; among African Americans 80% of firearm-related death is homicide; and

Every day 93 people die from gunshot injuries, seven of whom are children, while more than 180 people are victims of nonfatal gunshot injuries every day, 40 of whom are children or teens; and

In addition to death and injury, gun violence creates a sense of a lack of safety and exposes people and communities to traumatic events, which include but are not limited to: witnessing gun violence, being fearful to go or be outside because of gun violence, fear of being near areas or activities which often escalate to violence, having had to hide due to gun violence or violent activity in the neighborhood, and/or having lost a relative or close friend to gun violence; and

The known impacts of chronic and complex trauma include low self-regulation, poor impulse control, mental health problems, cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes, and substance abuse; and

Congress has blocked the passage of sensible gun legislation to protect the American public and our children by significantly curtailing the proliferation of, and access to, illegal guns in America. This includes bills that would create a requirement to report lost and stolen guns; reauthorize an assault weapon and high capacity magazine ban; close the gun-show and fire-sale loopholes; and repeal restrictions on state and local law enforcement's access to trace gun data; and

After the passage of the groundbreaking Brady Bill in 1993, the U.S. Congress has consistently cut and blocked funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an agency that supports research into the issues that contribute to homicide and gun violence. Congress has also instituted structural restrictions that prevent the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire Arms and Explosives (ATF) from effectively and comprehensively carrying out its role of oversight of the firearms industry; and

Public Law 109-92, The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act passed in 2005, prevents firearms manufacturers and dealers from being held liable when crimes have been committed with their products. PL 109-92 effectively prevents victims of firearms violence in the United States from successfully suing manufacturers and dealers for negligence and or

contributory negligence. It closes an avenue by which victims can seek redress for suffering caused by the murders of loved ones, and

The U.S. Department of Justice's report, Vision 21, called for reform to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and identified African American boys and men, and their families, as among the victims of crime who are under-served, facing barriers to services, denial of services, and/or denial of funding, and

While America has laws that protect our children from products, activities, or situations that may cause them harm or injury, and make it illegal for them to purchase substances such as alcohol and tobacco, we have not done enough to protect children and teens from access to guns.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-B006  
**Title:** Advocate for State-Level Gun Violence Prevention  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention urge dioceses of The Episcopal Church across the United States to advocate for safe gun legislation with their state governments; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations support domestic dioceses in state-level advocacy against gun violence and other forms of community violence; and be it further*

*Resolved, That to assist the Office of Government Relations in this state-level advocacy against violence, the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget, and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$160,000 for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 853-854.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-B007  
**Title:** Advocate for Funding to Support Community Violence Intervention Programs  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commend investment in evidence-based community violence intervention programs and strategies that address gun violence as a public health issue; improve physical environments; strengthen anti-violence social norms; engage and support youth; reduce substance abuse; mitigate financial stress; reduce the harmful effects of the justice process; and confront the proliferation of guns; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention call upon the Congress and the executive branch to allocate significant federal funding for evidence-based community violence intervention programs and strategies; 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 funding and public policy to support community violence intervention programs and strategies that have been proven to reduce gun violence.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 854.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-B005  
**Title:** Advocate for Study of Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recognize gun violence in the United States as a public health crisis that requires federal government study to mitigate; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention calls upon the Congress of the United States to repeal the Dickey Amendment and oppose similar efforts that seek to limit the scope of federally funded agencies to do research and share statistics related to gun violence, sales and distribution of untraceable guns, and unlicensed gun sales; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the Office of Government Relations, members of the Episcopal Public Policy Network and individual Episcopalians be encouraged to advocate for funding and other policy measures that would encourage the Centers for Disease Control and any other appropriate federal government entities to study thoroughly gun violence in the United States and its impact on public health.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 419.