

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN; A BAN ON AMMUNITION CLIPS IN EXCESS OF TEN ROUNDS; AND CALLING ON THE CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION PROPOSED BY SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN TO IMPLEMENT THESE MEASURES

WHEREAS, since 1999, the incidents of mass shootings in schools and public places has increased at the same time that the overall crime rate has been falling; and

WHEREAS, in the last several years, the amount of random, mass gun violence has accelerated and the names of locations such as Tucson, Arizona; Aurora, Colorado; Virginia Tech; Virginia and Newton, Connecticut have become synonymous with senseless loss of life and crippling injuries; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the State of California to increase funding for mental health service programs and specific programs to screen and identify individuals at risk in order to provide interventions before violent acts occur; and

WHEREAS, although the State of California already has among the strictest gun laws in the United States including broadly defining and banning assault weapons, prohibiting the sale of ammunition magazines that carry more than ten bullets, and a 10-day waiting period to buy a gun, California residents can travel to neighboring states to obtain prohibited guns, magazines and ammunition, and

WHEREAS, the use of semi-automatic and automatic weapons with large ammunition clips allows persons intent on harm to cause more carnage than would be possible if such weapons were unavailable; and

WHEREAS, military-style weapons coupled with large ammunition clips are not necessary for sportsmen or home protection and constitute a demonstrated threat to the general public; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress enacted an Assault Weapon Ban that prohibited the sale of certain semi-automatic and automatic weapons in order to reduce the levels of street violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Assault Weapons Ban expired by operation of law and, to this date, the Assault Weapons Ban has not been renewed by Congress; and

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2013, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced legislation to reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban that she sponsored in 1994 and new legislation stopping the sale, transfer, importation and manufacturing of assault weapons as well as large ammunition magazines, strips and drums that hold more than ten rounds at the opening of the 113th Congress. NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego that it supports Federal legislation to reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban and new legislation stopping the sale, transfer, importation and manufacturing of assault weapons as well as large ammunition magazines, strips and drums that hold more than ten rounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council calls on the California congressional delegation to support legislation proposed by Senator Dianne Feinstein to implement these measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council calls upon the State legislature to expand state funding for mental health screening and service programs and provide specific funding to school districts for anti-violence and mental health programs.