

WHEREAS, Each year, over 35,000 Americans die from gun violence. Over 85,000 are injured. (Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence). In Oregon, from 2010-2014, there were 2280 firearms related fatalities, an average of 456 per year. (Oregon.gov: Oregon Health Authority)

WHEREAS, Despite the fact that Oregon has already passed legislation that addresses banning assault weapons, tightening licensing and background check requirements, preventing purchase by violent felons, there are many loopholes that still must be closed to achieve a comprehensive assault weapons ban, thorough background checks for every person purchasing a gun at any venue, and stricter licensing requirements.

WHEREAS, The newly adopted 2018 Democratic Party of Oregon Platform addresses these needs as follows:

1. Priority Legislative Action Item #4 calls for banning the sale and purchase of military-grade assault weapons, limiting magazine capacities to 10, raising the purchase age to 21, and funding buy-back programs;
2. Priority Legislative Action Item #6 calls for the repeal of the federal Dickey Amendment that prevents research into gun violence;
3. Article 6 – Health Care, Basic Needs and Gun Safety – Preamble states “We support all necessary measures to counter serious threats to public safety such as gun violence;”
4. Article 6 – Plank 5 states support for 2nd Amendment Rights but also states “we support comprehensive background checks for all gun sales and believe in measures to reduce firearm-related violence, injury, death and to prioritize safety;” and
5. Article 6 - Plank 17 supports a “ban on the civilian sale and purchase of military style weapons and high-capacity magazines;”

WHEREAS, High school students around the country have staged numerous and widespread grassroots actions calling for better gun safety regulations so that students will feel safer in schools; and

WHEREAS, The US Congress has failed to act on many of the rational gun safety measures and has also, through the 1996 Dickey Amendment which stipulates that “none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shall be used to advocate or promote gun control”, prevented research into the connections between gun violence and public health and safety;

THEREFORE, We the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) of Oregon, Resolve as follows:

1. The WCDCC supports state and Federal legislation that includes a complete ban on assault weapons, high capacity magazines, rapid-fire add-ons; and further tightens licensing and background check requirements;

2. The WCDCC supports funding HR4477 (The FIX NICS act of 2017, to ensure federal and state authorities comply with existing law and accurately report relevant criminal history records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System), and we support the Toomey-Manchin bill (expanding background checks for gun sales to unlicensed gun shows and on-line sales);
3. The WCDCC applauds the Oregon Legislature for being the first in the country to pass gun reform legislation since the Parkland shooting (HB 4145) and we encourage our legislators to work towards passing legislation that will lead to an assault weapons ban, more comprehensive background checks, restrictions on law enforcement use of assault weapons, and other gun safety measures necessary to protect Oregonians from death and injury by firearms and we also support students in their efforts, and encourage their leadership in these issues;
4. The WCDCC supports full funding for CDC research on gun violence as a public health issue, reversing the 1996 Dickey amendment that forbids the use of Federal funding for research on gun safety, which has had a chilling effect on funding to the CDC from other sources for this purpose);
5. The WCDCC will make this Resolution known to our state and federal legislators and anyone else the R&PC chooses, and will support legislative efforts to achieve these goals; and
6. The WCDCC will make this Resolution known to all student groups in Washington County that have organized to prevent gun violence and improve safety in and around schools.

Resolution submitted by Lisa Stiller, R&PC Member - May 3, 2018

Approved by R&PC – May 14, 2018

Adopted by WCDCC – May 23, 2018