

REFERENCE TITLE: **gun violence; public health crisis**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HR 2003

Introduced by
Representatives Sandoval: Aguilar, Austin, Stahl Hamilton, Villegas

A RESOLUTION

DECLARING GUN VIOLENCE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the United States is in the midst of a troubling crime
2 wave. 2019 to 2020 saw the single largest year-to-year increase in murders
3 in our nation's history, a trend that continued into 2021. Nonfatal
4 shootings and other aggravated assaults have also dramatically increased
5 in many jurisdictions; and

6 Whereas, according to the latest statistics from the Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention, more Americans died of gun-related
8 injuries in 2021 than in any other year on record; and

9 Whereas, gun violence is a daily scourge that threatens our most
10 fundamental right: the right to life. More than 600 people die every day
11 as a result of firearms violence, which is driven in part by easy access
12 to firearms; and

13 Whereas, gun ownership is consistently correlated with rates of
14 firearm suicides, homicides and accidental shootings; and

15 Whereas, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a gun
16 homicide than residents of high-income peer countries; and

17 Whereas, the American Medical Association has formally recognized
18 gun violence as a public health crisis; and

19 Whereas, firearms cause devastating injuries that result in lasting
20 consequences on physical and mental health for individuals, families and
21 communities. Some gunshot victims need intensive, lifelong care. Others
22 may lose their ability to work. Many have little or no access to programs
23 that offer adequate long-term care and rehabilitation; and

24 Whereas, the impact of gun violence extends beyond physical injuries
25 and fatalities, including emotional trauma, economic burdens and
26 long-lasting suffering for affected individuals and their families; and

27 Whereas, beginning in 2014, firearm death rates began significantly
28 increasing in Arizona; and

29 Whereas, gun violence is one of the leading causes of death in both
30 adults and children in this state; and

31 Whereas, in 2020 alone, 1,265 Arizonans were killed due to firearms;
32 and

33 Whereas, in 2022, according to Arizona's child fatality review,
34 firearm deaths surpassed drug overdoses and car accidents as the number
35 one cause of death of children 15 to 17 years of age; and

36 Whereas, our human rights are not protected if our leaders fail to
37 tackle and end the epidemic of gun violence and gun deaths.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

40 That the Members of the House of Representatives declare gun
41 violence a public health crisis in this state.