



City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In the City Council, July 14, 2022

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilor Karen Foster
Councilor Marianne LaBarge

R.22.143 A RESOLUTION In Support of a Federal Assault Weapons Ban

WHEREAS, the 1994 federal assault weapons ban was allowed to expire in 2004, AND

WHEREAS, scientific research demonstrates that unregulated access to guns results in a higher number of firearm fatalities, AND

WHEREAS, 25% of firearm deaths in the United States each year are of children¹, AND

WHEREAS, people with a gun in their home are more than twice as likely to be killed by a gun than those who live in homes without guns, with disproportionately higher risks to women who are far more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence when living in a household with a gun owner², AND

WHEREAS, research estimates that when the federal assault weapons ban was in effect, mass shootings were 70% less likely to occur³, AND

WHEREAS, limiting access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines has a demonstrable impact on reducing mass shootings, with states with limitations experiencing mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions⁴, AND

WHEREAS, of all mass shooting incidents (shootings involving 4 or more victims)

¹ Everytown for Gun Safety, Research and Policy,

² David M. Studdert, "Homicide Deaths Among Adult Cohabitants of Handgun Owners in California, 2004 - 2016: A Cohort Study", *Annals of Internal Medicine*, June, 2022

³ Charles DiMaggio et al., "Changes in US Mass Shooting Deaths Associated with the 1994-2004 Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Analysis of Open-Source Data," *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 86, no. 1 (January 2019): 11-19

⁴ Sam Petulla, "Here Is 1 Correlation between State Gun Laws and Mass Shootings," CNN, October 5, 2017, <https://cnn.it/2J4sWCC>. (Study defines mass shootings as incidents where three or more victims, not including the shooter, are killed or injured with a firearm.)

between 2009 and 2018, assault weapons accounted for 76% of nonfatal injuries, AND

WHEREAS, survivors of gun violence with nonfatal injuries and their families face life-altering outcomes, including:

- An average increase of \$2,495 per month on medical spending in just the first year
- A 51% increase in psychiatric disorders for survivor of gun violence
- A 12% increase in psychiatric disorders for family members of survivors
- An 85% increase in substance abuse disorders for survivors⁵

WHEREAS, on Jul 5, 2022 the American College of Physicians released a statement declaring that gun violence is a national epidemic that will require “using all the tools one would employ for an epidemic” in order “to keep our patients and our communities safe.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Northampton calls on our federal government and representatives to reinstate a ban on assault weapons and restrict the size of magazines that can be purchased, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Northampton supports a federal assault weapons ban as necessary step, but only a first step, in addressing the public health crisis that gun violence of all types presents in our country, AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall send a copy of this resolution to: Congressman James P. McGovern, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward Markey, President Joe Biden, Attorney General Merrick Garland, and Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Gary M. Restaino.

⁵ Zirui Song, “Changes in Health Care Spending, Use, and Clinical Outcomes After Nonfatal Firearm Injuries Among Survivors and Family Members: A Cohort Study”, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, June, 2022