

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 53

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges President and Congress of US to declare gun violence national emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



AR53 QUIJANO

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1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the President and the Congress
2 of the United States to declare gun violence a national
3 emergency.
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5 **WHEREAS**, Gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the
6 United States; and

7 **WHEREAS**, There were 39,773 gun deaths in the United States in 2017,
8 up by more than 1,000 from the year before; and

9 **WHEREAS**, United States citizens are dying each year due to gun
10 violence in public schools, movie theaters, workplaces, houses of
11 worship nightclubs, college campuses, athletic events, and concerts;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, Gun violence costs the United States an estimated \$229
14 billion annually; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The United States has the highest rate of gun ownership in
16 the world and there are more guns than people in this country; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The American Medical Association adopted a policy in
18 2016 calling gun violence in the United States a “public health
19 crisis” requiring a comprehensive public health response and
20 solution; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The United States should renew its emphasis on improving
22 gun injury and gun violence research in order to reduce the damage
23 caused by gun violence and expand access to mental health
24 services; and

25 **WHEREAS**, In the past, Congress has prohibited the use of federal
26 funds for this research by passing the Dickey Amendment;
27 however, Congress should repeal the Dickey Amendment and fund
28 research on gun violence to help reduce the damage caused by gun
29 violence; and

30 **WHEREAS**, If Congress fails to fund research on gun violence, the
31 President should declare a national emergency in order to fund
32 research on gun violence; now, therefore,
33

34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
35 *Jersey:*
36

37 1. This House urges the President and the Congress of the
38 United States to declare gun violence a national emergency.
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40 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
41 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
42 President of the United States, the President of the United States
43 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
44 the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and
45 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the
46 United States Congress elected from this State.

1 STATEMENT

2
3 This resolution urges the President and the Congress of the
4 United States to declare gun violence a national emergency.
5 Thousands of American citizens are dying each year due to gun
6 violence in public schools, movie theaters, workplaces, houses of
7 worship, nightclubs, college campuses, athletic events, and
8 concerts. The American Medical Association adopted a policy in
9 2016 calling gun violence in the United States a “public health
10 crisis” requiring a comprehensive public health response and
11 solution. It is necessary for the federal government to fund research
12 on gun violence to reduce the damage caused by gun violence.