Whereas, The 1996 Dickey Amendment led to a near 25 year prohibition on federal funding for research into gun violence and prevention; and

Whereas, Congressional funding for research into firearm injury prevention has remained flat at $25 million annually despite federal budget requests for increased dollars; and

Whereas, This lack of funding and research has impeded our ability to apply evidence-based approaches to decrease firearm injuries and deaths in US children and youth; and

Whereas, The National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration has detailed databases on motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries, which have been vitally important in implementing interventions and ultimately decreasing motor vehicle-related death; and

Whereas, As of 2020 funding has been appropriated in all 50 states to provide data for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS); and

Whereas, While the NVDRS is an important first step, a real-time surveillance system for injuries, including those involving firearms, is necessary to truly understand the changing dynamic of firearm injuries and death; and

Whereas, The use of state firearm registration files, including hand guns, rifles, and semi-automatic weapons for research is prohibited by the 2003 Tiahrt amendment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association and all interested medical societies advocate for a comprehensive national-level data system for firearm injuries and deaths including real-time surveillance and continued improvements to the quality and comparability of currently collected data (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for repeal of the 2003 Tiahrt amendment which prohibits the release of firearm tracing data for research (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for additional federal budgetary funding for expanded firearm injury and death prevention research at all appropriate federal agencies in order to better understand the risk and protective factors for firearm injuries and to develop evidence-based interventions at the individual, house-hold, community, state, and federal levels to decrease firearm injuries and deaths. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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