

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

SUBMITTED BY: Student Nurses at Penn (SNAP) at the University of Pennsylvania

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WHEREAS, 39,773 persons died from firearm-related injuries in the United States in 2017 (National Vital Statistics Reports, 2019, p. 12); and

WHEREAS, nearly 1300 children died on average from a fire-arm related injury each year from 2012 to 2014 in the United States (Fowler et al., 2017, p. 3); and

WHEREAS, an average of 5790 children each year receive medical treatment in an ED for a firearm-related injury (Fowler et al., 2017, p. 3); and

WHEREAS, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities, with homicide being the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic blacks and the second leading cause of death for Hispanics aged 15-34 (Gun Violence is a Public Health Crisis, 2019, par. 3); and

WHEREAS, there is an annual financial burden of approximately \$2.8 billion in ED and inpatient charges associated with firearm related injuries (Gani, Sakran, & Canner, 2017, p. 8); and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of knowing a victim of firearm violence over one's lifetime in the United States is 99.85% (Richmond & Foman, 2019, p. 234); and

WHEREAS, exposure to firearm violence or witnessing a violent event can result in psychological injury to youth and adults even in the absence of a physical injury” (Richmond & Foman, 2019, p. 234); and

WHEREAS: evidence-based strategies, such as Family-Nurse Partnerships, access to school nurses, substance abuse treatment, and mental health care have been demonstrated to improve social supports, promote wellness, and prevent violence (Gonzalez-Guarda et al., 2018, p. 334-335); and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) promote recognition of gun violence as a public health concern; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SNAP publishes an article in Insight, if feasible, to educate its constituents about the public health effects of gun violence in the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, that SNAP send a copy of this resolution to the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania League of Nursing, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and any other organization deemed appropriate by the SNAP Board of Directors.