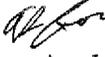


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: January 11, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S113
Assignment No: 15-12-0973

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz - Krekorian) to support Legislation that would lift federal
restrictions on gun violence research

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz - Krekorian) to include in the City's
2015 – 2016 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation that would lift restrictions on
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) that
prohibit them from conducting any research on gun violence.

SUMMARY

On December 4, 2015, a Resolution (Koretz – Krekorian) was introduced in support of legislation
that would lift the congressionally imposed ban on funding research into gun violence by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH). The
Resolution states that in 1996 Congress passed legislation that effectively prohibited the CDC and
NIH from conducting research into gun violence, and that since this legislation was passed, no
federally-funded scientific research of gun violence in the United States has been conducted.

The Resolution states that since the prohibition on gun violence research was enacted, the
percentage of premature deaths in the United States related to gun violence has grown, and that
gun deaths are on track to surpass vehicle collisions as the leading cause of death among young
people. The Resolution further states that federal research has been invaluable in reducing
premature deaths from other causes in the past, and that doctors from around the country believe
that CDC and NIH research would help to address the gun death epidemic facing the United States
now. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support
legislation that would lift restrictions on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
and National Institutes of Health (NIH) that prohibit them from conducting research related to gun
violence.

BACKGROUND

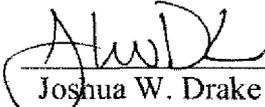
In 1996, Congress approved legislation that prohibited the CDC and NIH from using their
budgeted funding to study gun violence, ending any federally-funded research into gun violence
in the United States. While President Obama issued an Executive Order in December 2012 that
ended the explicit ban on the study of gun violence, congress has continued to refuse to authorize
funding for this program, and the CDC and NIH have continued to be unable to seriously study
the issue.

Every year in the United States, over 30,000 people die from gun-related injuries, with over 70,000 more being injured. These numbers have been trending up over recent years, and gun deaths are set to become the leading cause of premature death for young Americans in the near future. Advocates for the funding of gun violence research state that gun related violence is at epidemic levels in the United States, and that effective, data-driven research into this issue can result in common-sense solutions to the problem and lead to reductions in the number of people killed or injured by guns every year.

Advocates point out that federal research has been invaluable in addressing other significant causes of premature death, and would likely be effective in dealing with gun violence as well. Advocates point to the decline in automobile deaths since the mid-1970s, which is in part the result of federally funded research into automobile collisions. Federally funded research identified common causes for death or injuries in car collisions, and resulted in improved safety measures, better road design, and driver education programs. Federally funded research by the CDC and NIH into gun-related violence in the United States would help researchers identify key issues related to firearms and gun violence, and enable policy makers to implement changes that ensure less people are injured or killed by firearms in the United States. Legislation to restore funding for research into gun violence by the CDC and NIH is supported by a variety of groups, including medical professionals from across the United States.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Police Department


Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:MF:jwd

Attachment: Resolution (Koretz - Krekorian)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Congress passed legislation that effectively prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from conducting research on gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in the nearly twenty years since this legislation was approved, no federally-funded scientific research on gun violence has been conducted; and

WHEREAS, in that same time period, deaths related to gun violence have grown to make up a larger percentage of premature deaths in the United States, and are on track to surpass vehicle collisions as the leading cause death among young people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, federal research has been invaluable in reducing premature deaths from other causes, and doctors from around the country believe CDC and NIH research would help to address the gun death epidemic in this country; and

WHEREAS, even former Representative Jay Dickey, the author of the amendment that put this prohibition in place, regrets it and believes that research on this issue should be supported by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, it will be impossible to develop any comprehensive solution to the gun-related death and violence epidemic facing this country without a body of federally-funded research to help identify its root causes; and

WHEREAS, it is past time to restore federal funding to the CDC and NIH for research on gun violence and its causes;

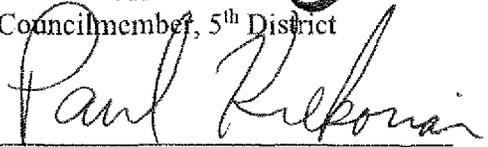
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015 - 2016 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation that would lift the restrictions on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) that prohibit them from conducting any research on gun violence.

PRESENTED BY



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY



DEC - 4 2015


jwd

ORIGINAL