

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Vestry Resolution No. 2019-1

Resolution in Support of the Passage of Sensible Gun Legislation

WHEREAS, our Government, at the local, state, and Federal levels, have a moral imperative to protect the welfare of all people, and especially the welfare of our children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has failed to provide such protection from violence resulting from the irresponsible and illegal use of readily accessible firearms in this nation; and

WHEREAS, gun violence, and particularly mass shootings, have reached epidemic proportions in the United States, rising to the level of a public health crisis; it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the Vestry of The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, Flossmoor, Illinois, in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago calls on the United States Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to enact specific common sense gun legislation that enjoys the support of the majority of Americans, gun owners and non-gun owners alike¹, that would reduce gun violence and, therefore, save lives. Such measures should include:

1. Universal background checks of all gun purchasers, closing current loopholes for private and gun show sales²;
2. Handgun purchaser licensing³;
3. Restrictions on gun ownership by domestic abusers;
4. Restrictions on sales of assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons⁴;
5. Passage of a federal and state Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), or “Red Flag” law⁵;

¹ According to a May 22, 2019 Quinnipiac University Poll (<https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2623>).

² According to a May 22, 2019 Quinnipiac University Poll (<https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2623>), 94% of American Voters (including 90% of gun owners) support universal background checks. A Fox News Poll also reported that in an August 14, 2019 Poll (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-august-14>), 90% of Respondents support universal background checks.

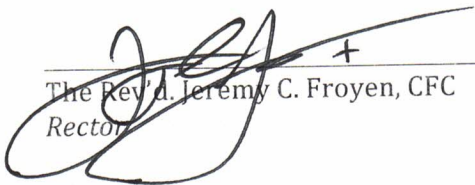
³ According to a May 22, 2019 Quinnipiac University Poll (<https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2623>), 77% of American Voters licensing requirements to purchase a gun.

⁴ In an August 14, 2019 Fox News Poll (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-august-14>), 67% of Respondents support a ban on assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons.

⁵ According to an August 20, 2019 APM Research Lab Survey (<https://www.apmresearchlab.org/gunsurvey>), 77% of Americans support family-initiated Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) and 70% support ERPOs that are initiated by Law Enforcement. Even among gun owners, 67% support family-initiated ERPOs and 60% support ERPOs that are initiated by Law Enforcement.

6. Classification of gun trafficking as a federal crime;
7. Encouragement for the development of "smart gun" technology;
8. Federal and state funding for research into gun violence prevention strategies.

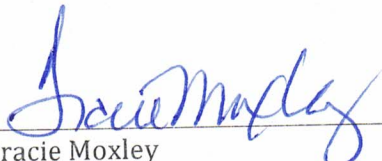
NOW, THEREFORE, the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, Flossmoor, Illinois, passes this resolution by unanimous consent, at its regularly scheduled meeting on this 18th day of September, 2019.



The Rev'd. Jeremy C. Froyen, CFC
Rector



Patricia Smith-Huntoon
Senior Warden



Tracie Moxley
Clerk of the Vestry
