

MEDCHI, MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 15-19

INTRODUCED BY: Medical Student Section; Kevin MacKrell, Jack Gatti, Johns Hopkins  
University School of Medicine

SUBJECT: Background Checks for Long Gun Sales

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Whereas, Firearms account for more than half of suicides in the US,<sup>1</sup> and this is largely driven by their case fatality rate being above 80%;<sup>2</sup> and

Whereas, Multiple studies have established a consistent association between household gun ownership and increased suicide rates;<sup>3-8</sup> and

Whereas, A recent study using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Violent Death Reporting System data for 13 states found that 27% of firearm suicides between 2005-2015 were with a long gun with increased rate of long gun use in firearm suicides among rural populations and adolescents relative to urban populations and adults respectively;<sup>9</sup> and

Whereas, in Maryland, firearm suicide decedents in the most rural counties were 4.17 times more likely to use long gun after adjusting for age, sex, and race;<sup>10</sup> and

Whereas, in Maryland, 44.6% of firearm decedents 18 or younger used long guns compared to 28.1% of decedents over 18, and 80% of rural firearm decedents under 18 used long guns compared to 43% of urban firearm decedents under 18;<sup>10</sup> and

Whereas, In a survey of rural firearm owners approximately 90% of households contained a long gun;<sup>11</sup> and

Whereas, in Maryland, the minimum age of purchase of a long gun is 18 while for a handgun the minimum age is 21 for purchase and possession; however, there is no minimum age of possession of long guns and no background checks on private sales of long guns; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi support state legislation requiring that background checks and gun safety courses be conducted for long gun sales; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi support state legislation instituting a 7-day waiting period for all long gun sales; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi support state legislation to raise the minimum age of purchase of a long gun to 21 years old.

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As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on November 2, 2019.

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