

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: C-14  
(A-20)

Subject: Smart Guns and Office for Firearm Violence Prevention

Introduced by: Gregory Engel, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Delegate  
Amish Dave, MD, MPH, Delegate  
King County Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee C

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1 WHEREAS, “smart guns,” firearms that can be fired only by the owner, are an existing  
2 technology that could reduce fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries, particularly teen firearm  
3 suicides and accidental firearm injuries of children;<sup>1</sup> and

4  
5 WHEREAS, surveys show that 79% of firearm owners would like to see both “smart guns” and  
6 traditional firearms available for sale, and 43% of firearm owners would consider purchasing a  
7 “smart gun.” Almost two thirds of non-firearm owners (65% of those with firearms in their  
8 households, and 63% of those in non-firearm-owning households) would consider purchasing a  
9 “smart gun;”<sup>1,2</sup> and

10  
11 WHEREAS, people wishing to purchase a “smart gun” because of its improved safety profile  
12 are prevented from doing so in the state of Washington because “smart guns” are not available  
13 for sale in this state; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in order to most effectively integrate and coordinate technological, media and  
16 legislative firearm injury prevention measures, a robust research program is required; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, as presently constituted, the research budget for the Office of Firearm Violence  
19 Prevention is insufficient to adequately fund the research necessary to fulfill an effective,  
20 comprehensive public health-based program to reduce fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, the WSMA supports policy encouraging the Washington State Legislature to  
23 address firearm injury and deaths based on proven public-health practices, employing sound  
24 research to understand causes, direct interventions, and study the effects of those interventions;<sup>3</sup>  
25 and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the WSMA supports research to help us understand and reduce the multi-factorial  
28 causes and consequences of firearm-related injury and death;<sup>4</sup> THEREFORE BE IT

29  
30 RESOLVED, that the Washington State Medical Association supports broadening the mandate  
31 of the existing Office for Firearm Violence Prevention to: Develop proposals to incentivize  
32 firearm sellers in the state of Washington to offer “smart guns” for sale and to incentivize the  
33 purchase of “smart guns” in place of “conventional” guns. (New HOD Policy).

Fiscal Note: None

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ ADOPTED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRED \_\_\_\_\_ NOT ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

## References

1. Wolfson JA, Teret SP, Frattaroli S, Miller M, Azrael D. The US Public's Preference for Safer Guns. *Am J Public Health*. 2016;106(3):411-413. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2015.303041
2. Crifasi CK, O'Dwyer JK, McGinty EE, Webster DW, Barry CL. Desirability of Personalized Guns Among Current Gun Owners. *Am J Preventive Medicine*. 2019;57(2):191-196. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2019.02.024
3. Washington State Medical Association Policy Compendium. "Development of Firearm Safety Policies"  
[https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Policies/Whats\\_Our\\_Policy/Guns\\_And\\_Weapons/Development\\_of\\_Firearm\\_Safety\\_Policies.aspx](https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Policies/Whats_Our_Policy/Guns_And_Weapons/Development_of_Firearm_Safety_Policies.aspx)
4. Washington State Medical Association Policy Compendium. "Reducing Firearm-Related Injury and Death, 2019 Updates"  
[https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Policies/Whats\\_Our\\_Policy/Guns\\_And\\_Weapons/Reducing\\_Firearm\\_Related\\_Injury\\_And\\_Death\\_2019\\_Updates.aspx](https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Policies/Whats_Our_Policy/Guns_And_Weapons/Reducing_Firearm_Related_Injury_And_Death_2019_Updates.aspx)

## WSMA Policy

### **Background Checks and Waiting Periods**

The WSMA supports criminal background checks for all firearm sales and transfers of ownership, with permissible exceptions, (e.g. gifts between immediate family members, antiques, and loans for lawful hunting or sporting activities.) (Res C-6, A-13) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports policy that provides for background checks and waiting periods for the purchase of firearms. (Res C-12, A-18)

### **Children**

The WSMA supports restricting child access to firearms through safe storage and child access prevention laws. (Res C-3, A-12) (Reaffirmed A-19)

### **Development of Firearm Safety Policies**

The WSMA support policy encouraging the Washington State Legislature to address firearm injury and deaths based on proven public-health practices, employing sound research to understand causes, direct interventions, and study the effects of those interventions. (Res C-21, A-19)

### **Extreme Risk Protection Orders**

The WSMA supports the concept of Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which allow families and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily suspend a person's access to firearms if there is documented evidence that an individual is threatening harm to themselves or others because of dangerous mental illness or at high risk of violent behavior. (Res C-6, A-16) (Reaffirmed A-19)

### **Gun Control**

The WSMA endorses national and state legislation to ban the domestic manufacture, sale, possession and importation of any polymer plastic handguns or other firearms determined to be able to escape detection by standard airport security. (Reaffirmed A-17) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports appropriate legislation that would restrict the sale and private ownership of large clip, high-rate-of-fire automatic and semi-automatic firearms, or any weapon that is modified or redesigned to operate as a large clip, high-rate-of-fire automatic or semi-automatic weapon. (Res 29, C-87; Res 22, C-90) (Reaffirmed A-17) (Reaffirmed A-18) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports closing loopholes in gun purchases online and at unregulated gun shows. (Res C-9, A-18) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports measures to reduce gun violence. (Res C-9, A-18) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports policy that raises the minimum age to purchase a firearm to 21 years of age. (Res C-14) (Reaffirmed A-19)

### **Gun Safety Education**

The WSMA encourages incorporating questions about firearms in and outside the home when documenting social history in the medical record. (Res C-7, A-13) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports encouraging physicians and health care workers to discuss safe storage of guns and the association of guns with risk of homicide, accidental shooting, and suicide, and counsel about risk. (Res C-9, A-18) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA supports the elimination of laws intruding on physicians' and patients' rights to discuss gun violence. (Res C-9, A-18) (Reaffirmed A-19)

The WSMA encourages its members to screen for risk factors of firearm injury and educate patients about prevention and safe storage. (Res C-15, A-18) (Reaffirmed A-19)

### **Guns as Public Health Issue**

The WSMA supports policy to address firearm-related violence and injury as a public health issue. (Res C-11, A-18)

### **Reducing Firearm-Related Injury and Death, 2019 Updates**

The WSMA support research to help us understand and reduce the multi-factorial causes and consequences of firearm-related injury and death. (Res C-23, A-19)

The WSMA support improved access to mental health care, while cautioning against broadly including all individuals with a mental health or substance use disorder in a category of individuals prohibited from purchasing firearms. (Res C-23, A-19)

The WSMA support policy that would prohibit those guilty of violence against a family member or intimate partner—including dating partners, cohabitants, stalkers, and those who victimize any family member—from purchasing or possessing firearms. (Res C-23, A-19)

### **Safe Storage**

The WSMA supports policy that will encourage and promote the safe storage of firearms in homes where those firearms are kept. (Res C-13, A-18)

### **Trauma Prevention**

The WSMA supports working with the Washington Chapter of the American College of Surgeons to enact safe and sane legislation relating to the purchase of firearms to include:

1. Firearm education and safety certification prior to purchase;
2. Licensure appropriate to the class of firearm desired for purchase; and
3. Establishment of an appropriate waiting period between application for purchase and/or licensure and purchase of the firearm.

### **Weapons-free Zones for Health Care Facilities**

The WSMA supports policy that creates weapons-free zones for medical practice settings, allowing exceptions for law enforcement. (Res C-9, A-18)