



Signature Report

Resolution 20-01

Proposed No. 20-01.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging the Washington state
2 Legislature to restore local authority to enact local firearm
3 policies and pursue firearm policies that would benefit all
4 Washington residents' health and safety.

5 WHEREAS, nearly 40,000 Americans die by suicide, homicide or accidents with
6 firearms each year, and

7 WHEREAS, in 2013, the King County Board of Health passed a resolution
8 calling on lawmakers to take meaningful action to address gun violence and committing
9 to supporting efforts to reduce gun violence and supporting a strong mental health system
10 which includes prevention and early intervention services, and

11 WHEREAS, in 2017 firearms accounted for 49 percent of suicides in Washington
12 State and suicides made up 75 percent of firearm deaths during the same year, and

13 WHEREAS, in 2017, the King County Board of Health passed a resolution
14 calling on lawmakers to take meaningful action to address firearm tragedy, and

15 WHEREAS, during the 2015-16 school year, the Washington state
16 Superintendent of Public Instruction reported 130 incidents involving a gun on school
17 premises, transportation systems or school facilities, and

18 WHEREAS, in 2017, 39,773 people died from gun-related injuries in the United
19 States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and

20 WHEREAS, in 2017, 849 deaths were caused by firearms in Washington state,
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in 2016 and 2017, 298 King County residents were hospitalized for
23 nonfatal injuries from firearms including 25 children under 18, and

24 WHEREAS, in King County, firearm fatalities cost approximately \$220 million in
25 medical costs and lost productivity each year, and

26 WHEREAS, in 2018 the King County Board of Health adopted BOH18-04,
27 requiring firearm dealers to post signs informing purchasers that firearms in the home
28 significantly increase the risk of suicide, homicide, death during domestic violence
29 disputes and unintentional deaths to children, household members and others, and

30 WHEREAS, in July 2019 the King County Board of Health held a two-day Gun
31 Violence Prevention Summit to discuss issues related to gun violence in King County and
32 hear from communities impacted by gun violence, health professionals, and researchers
33 in the field of gun violence prevention;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
35 County:

36 A. The Board of Health calls on the Washington state Legislature to eliminate
37 state preemption and restore the authority of local and municipal governments to enact
38 laws related to guns and firearms that build upon state law, prevent harm and injury and
39 promote the ability of all residents to thrive;

40 B. The Board of Health supports state level firearm policies and funding that
41 would benefit all Washington residents' health and safety such as:

42 1. Ending sales of high-capacity assault weapons and ammunition;

- 43 2. Strengthening and streamlining the state's background check system;
- 44 3. Enhancing mental health care and services for residents and communities
- 45 impacted by gun violence;
- 46 4. Building our knowledge on the impact of guns in our communities by
- 47 improving data collection, sharing and tracing of firearms used in crime, including
- 48 reporting lost or stolen firearms;
- 49 5. Requiring all people who legally own firearms have appropriate safety
- 50 training; and
- 51 6. Strengthening community-based efforts to prevent violence.
- 52 C. The Board of Health commits to continuing to build a public health and safety

53 approach to firearm injury prevention, in partnership with government agencies and
54 institutions, community-based organizations and members of impacted communities.
55

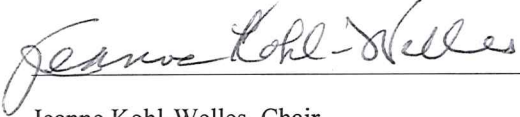
Resolution 20-01 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 1/16/2020,
by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. McDermott, Dr. Delecki, Dr. Daniell, Ms. Kohl-Welles,
Mr. Lewis and Ms. Morales

No: 2 - Ms. Lambert

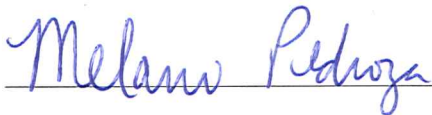
Excused: 4 - Mr. Baker, Ms. Honda, Ms. Mosqueda and Ms. Marx

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None