

R004-0809

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE INSPECTION OF FIREARM**
20 **WHOLESALEERS**

30 **WHEREAS:** Gun robberies and assaults victimize hundreds of thousands
40 of people a year, resulting in 45,000 injuries, 12,000 homicides;
50 and,

60 **WHEREAS:** The estimated social cost of each gunshot injury is \$1 million; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** Gun use intensifies violence, increasing the case-fatality rate in
80 assaults; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** Gun violence substantially reduces the standard of living in
100 communities in which it is common, and not just for the immediate
110 victims; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** Less than half of gun owners say that their primary motivation for
130 having a gun is self-protection against crime; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** A mere 20 percent of gun-owning individuals have only handguns;
150 44 percent have both handguns and long guns, reflecting the
160 fact that most people who have acquired guns for self-protection
170 are also hunters and target shooters; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** Given the importance of hunting and sport shooting, it is not
190 surprising that gun ownership is concentrated in rural areas and
200 small towns, and among middle-aged, middle-income households;
210 and,

220 **WHEREAS:** These attributes are associated with relatively low involvement in
230 criminal violence, and it is reasonable to suppose that most
240 guns are in the hands of people who are unlikely to misuse them;
250 and,

260 **WHEREAS:** Most of our country's guns are in the hands of relatively low-risk
270 people and are likely to remain there for many years; and,

280 **WHEREAS:** The large majority of gun crimes are committed by a small group
290 of criminally active people whose criminal "careers" are typically
300 fairly short in duration; and,

310 **WHEREAS:** Most of these criminally active people obtain their weapons from
320 secondary or black markets making the secondary market a
330 proximate source for the vast majority of crime guns; and,

340 **WHEREAS:** One obvious intervention point is the movement of guns from the
350 primary to secondary markets; and,

360 **WHEREAS:** Some licensed gun dealers are willing accomplices to gun
370 trafficking or straw purchases, or are selling to criminals off the
380 books; and,

390 **WHEREAS:** An ATF (U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms)
400 investigation which traced crime guns found that 75% of the
410 dealers who accounted for the original retail sale of these guns,
420 were in violation of at least one federal regulation; and,

430 **WHEREAS:** 20% of the dealers in this small sample were recommended for
450 license revocation; and,

460 **WHEREAS:** The ATF is only inspecting a small percentage of the 80,000
470 licensed gun dealers.

480 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature
490 urges President Bush and the Federal Government to preserve
500 traditional uses of guns but reduce gun access to high risk
510 populations by cracking down on corrupt dealers through
520 increasing the number of ATF inspections.

530 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
540 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
550 Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
560 Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
570 Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader
580 John Boehner, House Minority Leader

SPONSOR:

Andrea Thomson
VDCP, UMBC Delegation
University of Maryland, Baltimore County