



**RESOLUTION #23-40
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, guns are now the leading cause of death for children in America. Every day, eight children and teens are shot in instances of family fire - a firearm discharge involving an improperly stored or misused gun found in the home resulting in injury or death; and

WHEREAS, having a firearm in the home that is not safely locked or securely disabled increases firearm-related injuries, deaths, and crimes, including teen suicide, creating significant local and national public health impacts; and

WHEREAS, safely locking up or disabling firearms when they are not in the owner's immediate control is highly effective in reducing gun violence and has been found to be the single most effective gun safety measure enacted by states and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, suicide attempts often are impulsive acts, frequently occurring within five minutes of their decision to attempt suicide, and secured firearms impede the opportunity for impulsive suicide attempts, giving suicidal individuals time to contact family, friends, and health-care professionals, and giving others time to react; and

WHEREAS, two young people (ages 5-18) either die or survive a suicide attempt each day in our country. Over 80 percent of teens who commit suicide with a gun used one that belonged to someone in their home; and

WHEREAS, educating gun owners is a critical component of gun safety, in that an estimated 5 million children in the United States live in a home with unsecured firearms, 87 percent of kids know where their parents' guns are kept, and 60 percent report that they have handled guns; and

WHEREAS, 75 percent of school shootings are facilitated by kids having access to unsecured or unsupervised guns at home; and

WHEREAS, the law requires all firearms inside a residence to be safely locked or stored, unless the weapon is being carried on the body or in the immediate control of its owner or other authorized user; and

WHEREAS, students, parents, and educators recognized the importance of practicing responsible gun ownership and safety, beginning by keeping all guns and ammunition secured where children cannot access them; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence restraining orders (GVROs) allow guns to be removed from the home temporarily and prevent further purchases when someone is at risk of harming themselves or others. Families or teachers can apply to a court for a GVRO directly, and anyone can ask law enforcement for a GVRO to remove firearms from individuals who may be violent or in crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Oxnard Union High School District Board of Trustees now seeks to inform parents and guardians of the importance of safe storage in reducing accidental shootings of children and other firearm-related injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, the Oxnard Union High School District Board of Trustees continues to urge all parents to ask about the presence of unsecured firearms in any home before allowing their children to enter; and

WHEREAS, the rising threat of gun violence has struck at the heart of the shared ideal of providing a future for our youth through education, stretching from tragic attacks on schools, including school shootings at Columbine High School in 1999, the Sandy Hook Elementary massacre in 2012, and the Parkland, Florida, mass shooting in February 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the OUHSD website to include information about parents' and guardians' legal duties to safely store or disable firearms, and that this information should include assistance with obtaining a gun violence restraining or a domestic violence restraining order so families may better protect themselves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, businesses, firearms owners, and non-profit and advocacy organizations to increase efforts to inform parents and guardians of their duty to safely lock or securely disable their firearms, as well as informing families of their right to obtain a gun violence restraining order and domestic violence restraining orders to safeguard their loved ones.

Adopted: 9/27/2023



Karen M. Sher, M.Ed.
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Tom McCoy, Ed.D.
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