Proclamation

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

WHEREAS, every day, 125 people in the United States are killed by gun violence, and more than 260 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 19,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, people in the United States are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado has 977 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 16.2 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state $11.7 Billion each year, of which $156.1 M is paid by taxpayers. Colorado has the 21 st highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the school district's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from those who are a danger to themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see high levels of gun violence continue to plague our communities;

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 6, 2025 to recognize the 28th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to —

(1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

(2) the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 6th, the first Friday in June 2025, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 6, 2025 people across the United States will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adams 12 Five Star School Board declares the first Friday in June, June 6, 2025, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.o be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Adopted by the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education at its meeting on May 7, 2025