

RESOLUTION 23-002

SECURE STORAGE NOTIFICATION-- STATES WITH STORAGE LAWS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Scarborough, Maine in Town Council assembled that jointly with the Scarborough Board of Education,

WHEREAS, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; and,

WHEREAS, every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home; and,

WHEREAS, another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member; and,

WHEREAS, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends; and,

WHEREAS, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes; and,

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and,

WHEREAS, school districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices; and,

WHEREAS, keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders; and,

WHEREAS, state law imposes penalties on adults when a child gains unsupervised access to unsecurely stored firearms; and,

WHEREAS, in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Scarborough Town Council declares June as "Gun Violence Awareness Month" and will partner with public safety department and town communication staff to promote dissemination of educational materials that provides best practices on secure gun storage via the Town e-newsletter and Town Website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council and the Town Manager, along with the Board and the Superintendent will continue to partner with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform residents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Signed and dated this 17th day of May 2023, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager of Scarborough, Maine.

/s/ Jonathan Anderson
Chair

/s/ Thomas J. Hall
Town Manager