



Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Social Justice Resolution on Gun Safety - May 20, 2018

Because Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every life; promote peace, justice, and compassion; and

Whereas, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed by guns than people in other developed nations; 93 Americans are killed with guns every day; and

Whereas, The Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, in 2013, passed a gun safety resolution following the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary, urging lawmakers support of the Feinstein assault weapons ban (Senate Bill 150 of the 113th Congress, 1st Session); and

Whereas, since the incidents in mass shootings and gun violence in our country have continued to increase while few measures have been taken to address the role access to firearms and the lack of regulation of deadly weapons plays in these incidents; and

Whereas, it is abundantly apparent that reduction of the incidence of deaths and injuries from acts of violence perpetrated by use of firearms, particularly rapid-fire, assault weapons and high-capacity magazines can be achieved through reasonable regulation consistent with preservation of rights guaranteed under the Second Amendment of the U. S. Constitution;

Now, therefore, be it hereby RESOLVED that the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship takes the position that the following measures be enacted by state and national lawmakers:

1. Renewal of an assault weapons ban and other provisions similar to that of the Feinstein bill (see addendum for salient features of the bill),
2. Invest in violence prevention and intervention programs.

Be it further RESOLVED that the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship commits to the following action steps to be a prominent and faithful voice of witness, advocacy, education, and protest, if necessary, in the public sphere:

1. Supporting community partners working on common sense solutions locally and nationally,
2. A public media campaign to make our voice, support, and adoption of this resolution prominent in our community (including but not limited to, press release, a letter campaign to lawmakers, opinion pieces, etc.)

Adopted at annual congregational meeting of the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on 20 May, 2018.

Gwyn Reid, Secretary

Matthew Sabin, President

(Resources consulted: UUA Statements of Conscience and Americans for Responsible Solutions)

Addendum - Summary of Senator Feinstein Bill (122 pages)

The legislation bans the sale, transfer, manufacturing and importation of:

- All semiautomatic *rifles* that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: pistol grip; forward grip; folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; barrel shroud; or threaded barrel.
- All semiautomatic *pistols* that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: threaded barrel; second pistol grip; barrel shroud; capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip; or semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm.
- All semiautomatic *rifles and handguns* that have a **fixed magazine** with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.
- All semiautomatic *shotguns* that have a folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; pistol grip; fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 5 rounds; ability to accept a detachable magazine; forward grip; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; or shotgun with a revolving cylinder.
- All *ammunition feeding devices* (magazines, strips, and drums) capable of accepting more than 10 rounds.
- One Hundred Fifty Seven (157) specifically named banned firearms.
- Bans large-capacity magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition;
- Prohibits the sale or transfer of high-capacity ammunition feeding devices currently in existence;

This legislation further:

- Requires background checks on all future transfers of assault weapons covered by the legislation, including by sale, trade or gift;
- Exempts from the ban all assault weapons lawfully possessed at the date of enactment;
- Excludes more than 2,200 legitimate hunting and sporting rifles by specific make and model;
- Excludes antique firearms; all firearms operated by bolt, pump, lever or slide action; and firearms used by the military, law enforcement and retired law enforcement; and
- Requires grandfathered assault weapons be stored safely using a secure gun storage or safety device in order to keep them away from prohibited persons.
- The Bill addresses and expands background checks, penalties and other safety issues.