

**National Federation of Democratic Women  
Resolution on Gun Violence Reform**

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution does guarantee the right to bear arms. When this amendment was added as part of the Bill of Rights on December 15, 1791, the weapons of that era shot one bullet at a time and then the firearm had to be reloaded. Modern times require addressing modern-day arms. Because of ever increasing violence with handguns and assault weapons, laws have been passed to curtail the deadly use of firearms, but many of these laws are too weak or just ignored; and

**WHEREAS**, in the numerous massacres that have taken place in recent years, shooters now use semi-automatic weapons and bump stocks that can turn a semi-automatic weapon into an automatic weapon. No one needs a weapon of this capacity except a soldier on a battlefield. Even hunters of migratory birds can use only a rifle that has three bullets, and then they have to reload. Reasonable people acknowledge that rapid-fire weapons are not appropriate for casual possession and use. In addition, death by firearm is the most frequent form of suicide; states that have enacted mandatory background checks have reduced the number of suicides with a firearm; and

**WHEREAS**, an April 2017 survey by the Pew Research Center found that 82% of gun owners and non-gun-owners favored keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill. This same survey found that gun owners and non-gun owners believe that the ease of people obtaining guns illegally is a major contributor to gun violence in the U.S.A. Gun violence research has been conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but Congress has discontinued the funding, thus hampering our ability to learn how to prevent gun violence.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) demands the full enforcement of existing gun laws and opposes any delay and resistance to adding common sense gun reform. NFDW demands that these laws be strengthened and new laws enacted to end the sale of bump stocks and semi-automatic and automatic weapons and calls for laws that institute mandatory background checks.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NFDW is demanding that Congress restore funding for Gun Violence Research.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee on April 8, 2018

Adopted by the NFDW Membership at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on June 16, 2018