



**National Federation of Democratic Women Resolution #5
Supporting Legislation on Gun Violence Reform Through Universal Background
Checks and Closing the “Charleston Loophole”**

WHEREAS, in 2020 the United States lost approximately 43,550 lives to gun violence (Gun Violence Archive), including suicides. This is not only horrifying and an “international embarrassment,” as President Biden recently lamented, but an avoidable national tragedy; and

WHEREAS, because of current loopholes in existing law, one in every five gun sales in America is conducted without a background check where no questions are asked, even though over 90% of all Americans support expanding background checks to include gun shows, “private,” and online sales; and

WHEREAS, while the country waits, Congress has failed for three decades to take action that could prevent the scourge of gun violence. As it did in the past, the U.S. House of Representatives acted this year to pass H.R. 8, “The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019,” requiring that all gun sales be subjected to a background check. In addition, it passed H.R. 1446, “The Enhanced Background Checks Act,” to address the “Charleston Loophole” that allowed gun purchases even before an FBI check has been completed. Both these bills are pending in the Senate, whose members have received a letter from 152 mayors, urging immediate consideration and action.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women hereby supports the passage of these two bills as common-sense approaches to help keep guns out of the wrong hands, and, furthermore, NFDW demands immediate debate and vote on this legislation in the U.S. Senate so that the will of a sound majority is respected as it was in the U.S. House.