

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 16

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Requiring universal background checks for all  
2 firearm sales will help keep guns out of the hands of illegal buyers  
3 and traffickers, without causing an undue burden on law-abiding  
4 American citizens; and

5           WHEREAS, Currently, federal law requires licensed firearm  
6 dealers to perform background checks on prospective purchasers, but  
7 it does not require the same of unlicensed sellers; since this  
8 exception applies broadly to all unlicensed dealers, it has created  
9 a dangerous and far-reaching loophole that dramatically increases  
10 the likelihood of gun murders and suicides; and

11           WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Justice,  
12 "individuals prohibited by law from possessing guns can easily  
13 obtain them from private sellers and do so without any federal  
14 records of the transactions"; and

15           WHEREAS, Properly enforced background checks help to keep  
16 guns out of dangerous hands; since the adoption of the Brady Handgun  
17 Violence Prevention Act in 1994, more than three million people  
18 legally prohibited from possessing a gun--mainly convicted felons,  
19 domestic abusers, and the severely mentally ill--have been denied a  
20 firearm transfer or permit; and

21           WHEREAS, Far from being a partisan issue, polling data shows  
22 that more than 90 percent of the American public supports  
23 background checks for all gun sales; that includes the vast  
24 majority of Republicans, Democrats, law enforcement groups, and NRA

1 members alike; and

2 WHEREAS, Background checks impose virtually no burden on  
3 law-abiding gun purchasers, as results are returned instantly and  
4 accurately in most circumstances; and

5 WHEREAS, By enforcing a universal background check system on  
6 all gun sales, firearms will only be kept out of the hands of those  
7 legally prohibited from possessing them, and the United States will  
8 be a safer place for all Americans; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
10 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to pass a  
11 federal law requiring universal background checks for all firearm  
12 sales; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
14 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
15 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
17 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
18 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
19 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.