Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
2015 General Assembly

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Background Checks and Education For Patients Regarding Gun Safety

Submitted by: Dan Jens, MD – LAFP Vice-Speaker

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians is concerned about prominent instances of firearm related violence throughout our state and around our country, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians feel the need to protect our patients and communities from death or injury from firearms, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians ask our Representatives to the House of Representatives and our Senators to pass legislation to make background checks more universal, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians encourage its members to discuss firearm safety with their patients, including issues that may include trigger locks, education about handling guns and how to control anger.

Background Information

At its May, 2013 meeting, AAFP's Commission on Governmental Advocacy developed, and the Board Chair approved in August 2013, a policy statement on background checks for gun sales:

Prevention of Gun Violence

The federal requirement for an on-site background check should ensure that those who have been convicted of a violent criminal offense and those who have been involuntarily committed to a mental institution or otherwise adjudicated to be suffering a severe mental condition posing a danger to others or themselves are not able to purchase firearms. Therefore, this background-check requirement should be expanded to include the sale of firearms at gun shows, over the Internet and in classified ads. Reasonable exceptions from the background check requirement should be allowed for sales between immediate family members if the seller does not know or have reasonable cause to believe that the purchaser is prohibited from receiving or possessing a firearm under federal, state, or local law.