

NORTH CAROLINA A

Promoting Education, Advocacy, and Resource Allocation for Firearm Injury Prevention

WHEREAS, firearm-related injuries remain a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States, impacting patients across all demographics served by family physicians; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of pediatric deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, firearms are a leading cause of mortality during pregnancy and the post-partum period; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recognizes gun violence as a public health epidemic that requires a multifaceted primary care intervention; and

WHEREAS, many family physicians report a lack of formal training and standardized resources to effectively counsel patients on firearm safety and secure storage in a culturally competent manner; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that clinician education positively impacts rates of physicians counseling on firearms and secure storage; and

WHEREAS, sustained advocacy at the state and federal levels is essential to securing funding for firearm injury prevention research and implementing evidence-based policy changes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the AAFP continue to develop and promote Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs focused on firearm injury prevention, harm reduction, and evidence-based counseling techniques for members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AAFP develop patient education resources for use by members, including information about how to integrate firearm harm reduction strategies into practice.