



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Isadore Hall, III
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Joint Resolution 20 (Hall) – Publicly Funded Gun Violence Research

Dear Senator Hall:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Senate Joint Resolution 20 (Hall). This resolution urges the United States Congress to lift an existing prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies falling under the Department of Public Health and Human Services (HHS).

Since 1996, Congress has adopted annual policy riders, known as the “Dickey Amendment” and the “Rehberg Amendment,” that effectively prohibit the federal CDC and other agencies under the federal HHS from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health. Former Representative Jay Dickey, the original author of the “Dickey Amendment,” has stated that he regrets offering the amendment and thinks it should be repealed. President Obama issued an executive action in 2013 directing the CDC to resume gun violence research. However Congress has provided no funding and the restrictive language remains in place.

Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the problem of gun violence, the lack of research makes it difficult to objectively assess the public health impacts and to provide sound public safety policies for local communities. Federal research is necessary to ensure that all communities are safe from gun violence. Passage of this resolution would provide funding for the purpose of conducting research to find a comprehensive evidence-based federal approach to reducing gun violence in our communities. Long Beach is supportive of finding a solution to promote public safety.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SJR 20.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker-Elect Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District