

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 22

By: Kirt

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution declaring the first Friday in June be recognized as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the State of Oklahoma; and supporting efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma averages 766 gun deaths each year, the 13th highest rate in the U.S. 66% of gun deaths are from suicide; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is among legislators' highest responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, support of law-abiding citizens' Second Amendment rights coincides with keeping guns from those that should not have them; and

WHEREAS, gun violence was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Gun violence prevention is now more important than ever after over two years of increased gun sales, calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and city gun violence; and

1 WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot
2 and killed at age 15. June 3, 2022, marked her 25th birthday and
3 people across the U.S. recognized National Gun Violence Awareness
4 Day and wore orange in tribute to Hadiya, other victims and
5 survivors of gun violence, and their loved ones; and

6 WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by Hadiya's friends and
7 classmates, who commemorated her life by wearing orange. They chose
8 this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to
9 others in the woods and it symbolizes the value of human life; and

10 WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear
11 orange on June 2, 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reducing gun violence and
14 pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and
15 encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
17 OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 THAT the Oklahoma Senate hereby proclaims the first Friday in
19 June—June 2, 2023—to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

20 THAT the Oklahoma Senate encourages all Oklahomans to support
21 their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun
22 violence and to honor and value human lives.

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