

## WESTERN STATES SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION 2019-03

Regarding gun control and violence in the United States of America

**PREAMBLE:** The members of the Western States Sheriffs' Association recognize that the firearm has a strong heritage in our Nation; a legacy where the founding fathers of the Republic were patriots, with firearms in their hands, fighting against tyranny, for the freedom and liberty they were denied. On their victory, they formed a new government to protect their hard fought achievement. In the framing of this government, they drafted amendments to protect their inalienable rights... thus was born the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. It is an amendment that has often been challenged, and interpreted by the highest court of the land, and to this day stands as an individual right for each law abiding citizen to keep and bear arms.

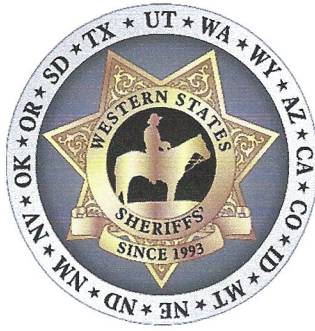
The frontier states, in which the Western States Sheriffs' Association members serve, were fruits of our expanding union. These states were established and defended with the help of firearms as a form of personal protection for the explorers and settlers and armament for the militias and peace keepers who won the west.

This tradition continues today where firearms have an important role in arming law enforcement and the military for protection of citizens and for preserving our individual rights and freedoms; as well as a role for law abiding citizens who may freely choose to arm themselves as collectors, to hunt, compete in shooting sports, participate in recreational shooting or personal and home Republic once again, as the original framers of the Constitution intended.

The members of the Western States Sheriffs' Association stand together to state that the Second Amendment should remain inviolate and that no efforts should be made by federal or state governments to infringe on this right.

**WHEREAS;** The Western States Sheriffs' Association represents the county sheriffs of seventeen states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming; and

**WHEREAS;** The Sheriff is elected by the people within a sovereign State and County to protect and serve all people within that County. At the time of assuming the Office, the Sheriff swears a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution and laws of the State that they serve;



**WHEREAS;** the horrific tragedies of active shooters across our Nation have created a visceral awareness of our personal vulnerability the likes of which our country has not experienced since 9/11. The horror is commonly magnified by the by the targeting of innocent children in a setting that was thought to be a safe haven and not the stage for evil opportunists to perpetrate unspeakable acts of violence. The members of the Western States Sheriffs' Association believe that we need to discuss violence in its totality, not just "gun" violence. Violence is a result of a breakdown on many fronts including: The eroding of the family, the involvement in gangs, abuse and sale of illegal drugs, lack of proper mental health treatment, and the virtual participation in violent interactive media. Discussions must start in our communities and include stakeholders from all disciplines who are dedicated and willing to address the myriad of complex issues related to the safety of our communities and our country.

**WHEREAS;** an unlawful act of violence hatched in the mind and heart of an individual intent to do harm to others makes that individual culpable for the criminal action regardless of the type of weapon that may have been used or the manner in which it was used; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Sheriffs in attendance at the 2013 Annual Training Conference of the Western States Sheriffs' Association agree that the rush to react to the violence by proposing controls on guns is ill-conceived, and is truly a distraction to the real problems proliferating violence in our country; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** Sheriffs stand to encourage the full and complete enforcement of the existing gun regulations and to oppose any executive order or rule that further restricts the rights of law abiding people to own, possess, keep and use firearms; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** that as duly elected Sheriffs, we are committed to take a lead role in facilitating the discussions in our communities and pledge to collaborate at all levels with those stakeholders to identify and work toward solutions for the complex issue of violence.

  
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Ben Wolfinger, President

  
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James Pond, Executive Director