

## **Resolution Formally Requesting the Congressional Delegation from Arkansas to Act on Responsible Fire-Arm Legislation**

**Whereas,** In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the crowd and the disciples of the importance of children, including being able to come to Jesus, the people should not cause children to stumble, and that the people need to have the faith of children (Matthew 18).

**Whereas,** Throughout the Hebrew Bible children are viewed as important to the continuation of the Jewish people, proclaimed as a gift from God, and protected under the Law as a group to not be forgotten or exploited.

**Whereas,** The United Methodist General Conference affirmed resolution 3428 in 2016 calling for an end to gun violence and advocating for responsible firearm legislation. (The United Methodist Book of Resolutions).

**Whereas,** The United States has endured over 270 mass shooting incidents already in 2022, with most recent incidents in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, accounting for 31 fatalities (CNN).

**Whereas,** The United States has, since 1999, suffered over 550 separate school shooting incidents with at least 185 fatalities and over 311,000 children exposed to gun violence at school during that time (Washington Post).

**Now, therefore be it resolved,** we, the Arkansas Annual Conference, call upon the Congressional Delegation from the State of Arkansas to support and act upon Responsible Fire-Arm legislation. These measures include:

- Mandatory background checks for all gun sales, including gun shows and private sales.
- The prohibition of further sales of military-style assault rifles (most notably the AR15).
- The prohibition on high-capacity magazines.
- The extension of waiting periods to all firearm sales.
- The implementation of red flag laws.
- The expansion of mental healthcare as a guaranteed right and coverage to all persons.
- The establishment of a minimum age of 21 to purchase a firearm.

**This resolution is to be sent to the following persons upon approval:**

- Senator Tom Cotton
- Senator John Boozman
- Congressman Rick Crawford, 1<sup>st</sup> District
- Congressman French Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> District
- Congressman Steve Womack, 3<sup>rd</sup> District
- Congressman Bruce Westerman, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Rev. Andrew C. Kjorlaug  
Rev. Charles Green  
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Rev. Paul Atkins

Rev. Daniel Theusen  
Rev. Patty Butler  
Rev. James Kjorlaug  
Rev. Claire Caldwell

Rev. Beth Waldrup  
Rev. Bill Sardin  
Rev. Sam Meadors  
Rev. Jacob Lynn