

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1974 (Stefani) - Firearms: Voluntary Firearm
2 Storage Program]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1974, introduced by**
4 **Assembly Member Catherine Stefani, which will authorize law enforcement agencies to**
5 **create voluntary firearm storage programs; authorize law enforcement agencies to**
6 **ensure the firearm has not been previously reported lost, stolen, or involved in a crime;**
7 **and require law enforcement agencies to destroy a firearm that was not retrieved.**

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9 WHEREAS, In 2023, gun violence accounted for 46,728 deaths in the United States,
10 marking the third-highest annual total ever recorded according to data from the Centers for
11 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

12 WHEREAS, While homicides peaked during the pandemic, firearm suicides have only
13 increased year-over-year with an average of 2,338 Americans dying by firearm suicide every
14 month between January and June 2025; and

15 WHEREAS, Research shows that more than half of suicide deaths in the United States
16 result from self-inflicted firearm injuries and that temporarily separating people in crisis from
17 firearms can significantly reduce suicide and firearm-related injuries or death; and

18 WHEREAS, Gun violence disproportionately impacts our veteran community as
19 veterans are three times more likely to die by firearm-assisted suicide than their civilian
20 counterparts, claiming the lives of approximately 13 veterans every day; and

21 WHEREAS, An estimated 4.6 million children live in households where at least one gun
22 is kept loaded and unlocked, increasing the risk that kids find guns and accidentally shoot
23 themselves or others, that the unlocked firearm is used as a mean for youth suicide, or that
24 the weapon is used in a homicide or mass shooting; and

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1 WHEREAS, In California, under State Bill No. 368 (SB 368) (Portantino, 2023), dealers
2 are required to accept for storage a firearm transferred by an individual to prevent it from
3 being accessed or used during periods of crisis or heightened risk to the owner of the firearm
4 or members of their household; and

5 WHEREAS, Currently, there is no state guidance for a law enforcement agency
6 seeking to implement a voluntary temporary firearm relinquishment program to address the
7 gap in voluntary, out-of-home storage options left by the low rates of implementation of SB
8 368 (Portantino, 2023); and

9 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 1974 (AB 1974) would authorize a local law
10 enforcement agency to create a voluntary firearm storage program that allows a person to
11 voluntarily transfer custody of their firearm to the local law enforcement agency for temporary
12 safekeeping purposes; and

13 WHEREAS, AB 1974 would additionally authorize a local law enforcement agency to
14 check a database to ensure the firearm has not previously been reported lost, stolen, or
15 involved in a crime; and AB 1974 would require a said law enforcement agency to destroy a
16 firearm that a person failed to retrieve; and

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a national leader in gun violence prevention as
18 San Francisco Police Department implemented its own safe storage program in partnership
19 with Pierce’s Pledge, furthering San Francisco’s gun safety efforts that include other programs
20 such as gun buyback initiatives, Red Flag Laws, and the San Francisco Gun Violence
21 Restraining Order initiative, led by then-Supervisor Catherine Stefani; and

22 WHEREAS, Research shows that more than half of suicide deaths in the United States
23 result from self-inflicted firearm injuries and that temporarily separating people in crisis from
24 firearms can significantly reduce suicide and firearm-related injuries or death; and

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1 WHEREAS, AB 1974 will build on San Francisco’s leadership by enabling local law
2 enforcement agencies to safely store firearms and help mitigate gun violence across the state;
3 now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 supports AB 1974 (Stefani) as a means of supporting gun safety in California; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages timely adoption
7 and implementation of 1974 to reduce the number of preventable lives lost in California; and,
8 be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages law
10 enforcement agencies to educate the public, family law advocates, and veteran outreach
11 programs on the benefits of their program; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall transmit a
13 copy of this resolution upon passage to the Governor of California, the President pro Tempore
14 of the California State Senate, the Speaker of the California Assembly, Assemblymember
15 Catherine Stefani, and the offices of San Francisco’s legislative delegation.

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