

1 [Urging County Health Officials to Assess Public Health Impacts from Panic Buying Weapons]

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3 **Resolution urging county health officials from the six Bay Area counties, Alameda,**
4 **Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara to evaluate the public**
5 **health threat of panic buying weapons and to warn Americans of the danger of panic**
6 **buying weapons.**

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8 WHEREAS, The global pandemic known as the COVID-19 crisis, has created a rush
9 on gun stores for weapons and ammunition; and

10 WHEREAS, The NRA has induced such panic buying by engaging in reckless fear-
11 mongering, using this national crisis as an excuse to grow corporate profits and scare more
12 people into buying guns; and

13 WHEREAS, More guns do not keep Americans safe because in reality, nearly 400
14 million civilian-owned guns in America have not stopped 40,000 annual gun deaths and
15 thousands of gun injuries; and

16 WHEREAS, Multiple studies have concluded that where there are more guns, there are
17 more gun deaths and more guns do not stop more crimes; and

18 WHEREAS, More guns in homes during these precarious times compounds the risks of
19 death and serious injury likely to further increase our hospital loads; and

20 WHEREAS, The enormous negative economic impacts are a major driver of suicides
21 and domestic violence; and

22 WHEREAS, With many people forced to stay home with their abusers, domestic
23 violence situations can become even more dangerous; and

24 WHEREAS, Cities across the country are already seeing dramatic spikes in domestic
25 violence calls, including a 33% increase of calls on the San Francisco domestic violence

1 hotline from March 1 to March 25, 2020; in March alone, from March 1 to March 10, 2020, and
2 March 11 to March 25, 2020, the calls to the domestic violence hotline more than doubled;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, When a firearm is present in a domestic violence situation, women are five
5 times more likely to be killed; and

6 WHEREAS, In the United States, 4.6 million children live in homes with unlocked and
7 loaded guns and an average of eight children are killed by unintentional shootings every day;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Firearm injury is the second leading cause of death for American children
10 and young adults; and

11 WHEREAS, More guns in our home during a time when millions of school children are
12 home due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders will result in more unintentional gun deaths
13 and injuries; and

14 WHEREAS, Trauma surgeons across the country have stated that panic buying of
15 guns and ammunition will fill the hospital beds with gunshot victims from unintentional
16 shootings, suicides and homicides during a time when hospital beds are critically necessary
17 for COVID-19 patients; and

18 WHEREAS, Panic purchases of guns and ammunition during the national emergency
19 will result in more lives lost; and

20 WHEREAS, We are seeing reports of spikes in calls to domestic violence and suicide
21 hotlines all across the country, a trend that is appearing worldwide as we continue to fight this
22 global pandemic; and

23 WHEREAS, A run on gun stores poses a public health risk if new buyers aren't
24 properly trained, new guns aren't stored properly and background checks aren't completed;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Short of deeming whether a gun store is an essential business or not,
2 these public health risks cannot be ignored and must be properly addressed whether deemed
3 essential or non-essential; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges that county health
5 officials from the six Bay Area counties, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San
6 Mateo and Santa Clara, evaluate the public health threat of panic buying firearms; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That county health officials should be warning Americans
8 about the danger of panic buying weapons.

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