



RESOLUTION 5015

A Resolution on Gun Laws and Gun Violence

Whereas we believe that public safety is paramount in having a civil society and that there is a biblical mandate for the role of government and governmental officials as servants of God established for the welfare and common good of its citizens (Romans 13:1-5); and

Whereas we, as American citizens, celebrate the freedoms and rights afforded in the Constitution of the United States of America and moreover we as Christian believers hold dear to the higher standards of human interaction, compassion, and concern for our neighbors contained in the Holy Bible, using it as our model and guide; and

Whereas there is a continuous onslaught of innocent American blood due, in part, to the prevalence and accessibility of high-capacity firearms; and

Whereas there is a time for war (Eccl. 3:8) and that in such times, such weapons are appropriate for defense against foreign nations (Number 31:3); and

Whereas such weapons intended for war and battle have been used, most recently, in the killing of 19 children and 2 teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, 10 adult patrons at a grocery store in Brooklyn, New York, and 6 parade-goers in Highland Park, Illinois; and

Whereas gun violence, in general, disproportionately impacts black communities, which the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health reports that young black males accounted for 38 percent of all gun homicides in 2020, but only represents 2 percent of the total U.S. population; and

Whereas the CDC's report, A Year in Review: 2020 Gun Deaths in the U.S., found that states with the highest gun death rates in 2020 were rural states in the South or West. Mississippi had the highest rate of gun deaths in 2020: 28.63 per 100,000 deaths, followed by Louisiana at 26.26 per 100,000; and

Whereas we embrace a responsibility to challenge America's and Mississippi's moral conscience and to heed the biblical injunction that we must not stand idly by the blood of our neighbor (Leviticus 19:16);

Be It, therefore resolved that we, the members of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc, support the signing of S. 2938 by President Joe Biden on June 25, 2022 and call upon local state and city leaders to follow in a similar vein of enacting smart gun laws that will keep Americans and Mississippians safe.

Be it further resolved that we call upon General Missionary Baptists to embark on a moral offensive by sending a message to our elected officials that we care deeply about gun violence in this state and support the repeal of Open Carry Gun Laws which allow for the open carrying of long guns in public without a permit or license.

Be it further resolved that we stand with the families of recent mass shootings around the country and those impacted by daily gun violence within our state and pray that God's comforting grace will sustain and strengthen you.

Be it finally resolved that we will hold ourselves accountable for gun violence in our own communities and will engage in community-wide efforts to end gun violence that needlessly destroy human life and desecrate the image of God upon all of human life.

Submitted this 21st day of July in the year of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ 2022.



**Dennis Grant, General Secretary
General Missionary Baptist
State Convention of Mississippi**



**Reginald M. Buckley, President
General Missionary Baptist
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Submitted by Rev. Tony Montgomery

Adopted July 21, 2022