

August 6, 2019

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRICT FEDERAL BACKGROUND CHECKS PRIOR TO FIREARM PURCHASES

WHEREAS: The Young Democrats of America Platform as passed at the 2019 YDA Convention in Indianapolis, IN states that YDA supports “strict background checks prior to any firearm purchase, including purchases at gun shows and mandatory waiting periods for all gun buyers;” and

WHEREAS: the 2019-2021 Platform also states that YDA supports “calling on the federal government to invest the necessary resources to accomplish instant background checks;” and

WHEREAS: Firearms are the second-leading cause of death among American children, and the leading cause of death among African-American children; and

WHEREAS: There were 14,769 deaths from guns in the United States in 2018, excluding suicide. There were 340 mass shootings in 2018, an average of more than one per day; and

WHEREAS: the recent loss of life by gun violence victims in Gilroy, California, El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio has caused many members of the U.S. Senate to offer only thoughts, prayers, and nothing else; and

WHEREAS: the frustration and fear that YDA members feel has been inflamed by the racially motivated rhetoric Donald Trump and his supporters spew each and every day; and

WHEREAS: The United States is the only first world country to deal with gun violence to level and it can't be blamed on mental health, video games, or anything other than the mostly unimpeded access to guns in this country; and

WHEREAS: H.R.8 the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019” was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 27, 2019 by a vote of 240 - 190; and

WHEREAS: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has refused to take up H.R.8; and

WHEREAS: S.42 a bill to expand background checks and close gun sale loopholes at any time was introduced in January 2019 and has not had a single hearing in the U.S. Senate 2019; and

WHEREAS: It is long past time that the U.S. Congress take action to prevent gun violence, protect its citizens, and stop being tools of the NRA and Gun Lobby;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Young Democrats of America demand that the U.S. Senate conduct hearings on and pass H.R. 8 and/or S.42 be immediately brought to the floor for a vote.