A RESOLUTION calling on lawmakers to take meaningful action to address gun violence and committing to supporting efforts to reduce gun violence and supporting a strong mental health system which includes prevention and early intervention services.

WHEREAS, gun violence is one of the leading causes of premature death in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans who die each year from gun violence (which is 31,000 in 2010) exceeds the number of babies who die each year during their first year of life (which is 25,000), people who die from AIDS (which is 9,000), or people who die from illicit drugs (which is 17,000), and

WHEREAS, lawmakers pass protective measures for other threats to the public's health, such as seat belt and impaired driving laws, childhood vaccinations and regulations around the safety of our drinking water, food and other products, and

WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2011, 2,874 Washington state residents died as a result of gun violence, and

WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2011, 625 King County residents died as a result of gun violence, and an additional 512 residents were hospitalized due to nonfatal firearm injuries, and
WHEREAS, of the King County gun deaths from 2007 to 2011, 164 were homicide, 460 were self-inflicted and one was unintentional, and
WHEREAS, suicide accounts for the greatest number of gun-related deaths in the United States and in King County, and
WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2011, the average cost of firearm fatalities and nonfatal hospitalizations in King County was $177 million per year in medical costs and lost productivity, and
WHEREAS, mass shooting events in the United States continue to occur, such as the 2011 massacres in Tucson, Arizona, the 2012 massacres in Aurora, Colorado, and Newton, Connecticut, and here in Seattle, Washington, last May, and
WHEREAS, other countries have a much lower gun-related mortality rate; the United States homicide rate is 30 times higher than that of Australia, France or the United Kingdom, and
WHEREAS, there are known strategies that can potentially reduce gun violence that our lawmakers can explore, and
WHEREAS, mental health services must also be a priority to reduce both suicide and homicide rates;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King County:
A. The Board of Health calls on federal and state lawmakers to take meaningful action to address gun violence;
B. The Board of Health supports actions by state and federal executives to meaningfully address gun violence, inclusive of President Obama's calls for action on January 16, 2013; and

C. The Board of Health commits to supporting efforts to reduce violence, including gun violence, and supports a strong mental health system that includes prevention and early intervention services.

Resolution 13-02 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 1/17/2013, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Conlin, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Clark, Dr. Nicola, Dr. Danielson, Mr. McDermott and Ms. Wales
No: 3 - Ms. Lambert and Mr. Baker
Excused: 3 - Ms. Frisinger, Mr. Licata and Mr. Harrell

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None