

RESOLUTION

Declaring the first Friday in June to be
National Gun Violence Awareness Day

This resolution declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Duluth Public School District to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota has 497 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 8.7 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$6.6 billion and each year, of which \$105.5 million is paid by taxpayers. Minnesota has the 44th-highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a high priority of the school district; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people that shouldn't have them; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see an increase in firearm homicides, and nonfatal shootings across the country, increased calls to domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence;

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 2, 2023 to recognize the 26th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to –

- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and
- (2) The loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 2, 2023, the first Friday in June in 2023, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2, 2023 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Duluth School Board declares the first Friday in June, June 2, 2023, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.