

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
POLICY STATEMENT ON HANDGUN CONTROL

WHEREAS, over 8,000 Americans were felled by handguns in 1970 and nationally 80% of all homicide victims knew killers as a relative or friend; and

WHEREAS, 95% of the policemen killed in the line of duty between 1961 and 1970 were felled by handguns; and

WHEREAS, gun dealers today sell to the mentally ill, criminals, dope addicts, convicted felons, juveniles, as well as good citizens who kill each other; and

WHEREAS, those who possess handguns cannot be divided into criminals and qualified gun owners; and

WHEREAS, handguns are not generally used for sporting or recreational purposes, and such purposes do not require keeping handguns in private homes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1939 that firearms regulation is not unconstitutional unless it impairs the effectiveness of the State militia,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors takes a position of leadership and urges national legislation against the manufacture, importation, sale and private possession of handguns, except for use by law enforcement personnel, military and sportsmen clubs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges its members to extend every effort to educate the American public to the dangerous and appalling realities resulting from the private possession of handguns and that we urge the Congress to adopt a national handgun registration law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (i) effective legislation be introduced and approved by the states not having adequate legislation to that effect; (ii) the proposed legislation shall provide for the registration of all firearms; (iii) state legislation shall require all citizens interested in carrying a weapon to obtain a license after showing just cause and good conduct; (iv) federal legislation shall provide, in addition to existing restrictions, that any person not having a state license to carry a firearm shall commit an offense for transporting such in interstate commerce.

Adopted
June 1972