

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING) RESOLUTION 07-2013
A POSITION ON FIREARM)
VIOLENCE) ADOPTING A POSITION ON
) FIREARM VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, to state that gun violence is a leading cause of death in this country is incorrect. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), homicide by firearm doesn't appear among the top ten (10) causes of death. Actual numbers for homicide by firearms is 11,000 per year with only a tiny fraction of those homicides being committed with "assault weapons". According to the Office of the Attorney General of California, the number of homicides which used rifles was 8.8%. The rate for firearms defined as "assault weapons" by the California Penal Code accounted for only 5.4% of firearm homicides; **AND**

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association in a letter to President Obama dated December 20, 2012 supports widespread new gun control regulations; **AND**

WHEREAS, epidemiology does not support an increase in gun regulations as a deterrent to crime. While Chicago has the most restrictive gun control laws in the United States and it has averaged over 500 homicides per year over the past five (5) years; **AND**

WHEREAS, good public health policy relies on the science of epidemiology and application of peer reviewed science. While the prevalence of firearms continues to increase there is no associated increase in either the incidence or rate of gun violence. Data compiled by the Bureau of Justice Statistics reveals that since the mid-1990's, gun homicides have decreased from a high of just over ten (10) per 100,000 to the current rate of five (5) per 100,000; **AND**

WHEREAS, while gun violence is high risk it has low frequency. By focusing on gun violence as a public health issue it draws attention and resources away from high risk/high frequency areas where public health desperately needs to focus its efforts; **AND**

WHEREAS, the applications of interventions used in accident prevention and tobacco cessation are misapplied when used in the discussion of firearm violence in that they fail to take into account intent and criminal action; **AND**

WHEREAS, begun in 1988, the Eddie Eagle GunSafe[®] Program has reached more than 26 million children in all fifty (50) states. This program was developed through the combined efforts of such qualified professionals as clinical psychologists, reading specialists, teachers, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, and law enforcement personnel; **AND**

WHEREAS, useless and unenforceable laws and regulations such as "gun free zones" weaken appropriate laws and regulations; **AND**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health of the Northeast Tri County Health District does not support further gun control regulation and takes a position in opposition to the American Public Health Association; **AND**

THEREFORE, the Board of Health of the Northeast Tri County Health District supports the proper application of epidemiology and the appropriate utilization of limited public health resources to address high frequency/high risk issues such as communicable disease, immunizations and tobacco use; **AND**

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THEREFORE, the Board of Health of the Northeast Tri County Health District supports the return of firearm safety programs to schools along the lines of the Eddie Eagle GunSafe[®] Program which can be taught by National Rifle Association (NRA) certified instructors, peace officers and other trained persons; **AND**

THEREFORE, the Board of Health of the Northeast Tri County Health District supports efforts to fund a strong mental health system that includes prevention and early intervention; **AND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Health of the Northeast Tri County Health District strongly encourages lawmakers and other local Boards of Health to adopt similar positions and resolutions.


Done this 17th day of July, 2013 in Republic, Washington and effective immediately upon signatures as of this date.



Board Member, City of Republic



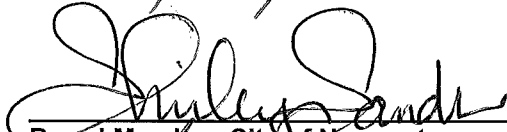
Board Member, Ferry County



Board Member, City of Colville



Board Member, Ferry County



Board Member, City of Newport




Board Member, Pend Oreille County



Health Officer

Board Member, Pend Oreille County



Board Member, Stevens County



Board Member, Stevens County