

Rep. Poleski offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 207.

A resolution to urge the United States Congress to resist unilateral and improper attempts by the President to take executive actions concerning gun control.

Whereas, The Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees Americans the right to keep and bear arms without infringement. Our Founding Fathers recognized that this right and other fundamental rights preserved in the Bill of Rights were needed to ensure a free and peaceful nation and to provide citizens the means to resist enemies, both foreign and domestic. Further, Article I, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution clearly affirms a right to keep and bear arms. Congress and the Michigan Legislature have reinforced this right repeatedly through legislative action; and

Whereas, The President is attempting to exceed his authority and to usurp legislative power solely vested in the Congress by the U.S. Constitution. The President should not issue executive actions contrary to federal laws properly passed by Congress and duly signed by the President, thereby violating the separation-of-powers doctrine enshrined in our Constitution; and

Whereas, Current law clearly requires only federally licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks, and only sellers who repeatedly purchase and sell firearms to make a living are required to obtain a federal license. Federal law specifically exempts individuals who sell their privately owned firearms from licensing. The recently issued executive action requiring all those who sell guns to become licensed and conduct background checks is clearly an infringement on the authority of the United States Congress to enact legislation concerning gun control; and

Whereas, Gun control measures proposed by the President would not incrementally protect our nation and our citizens from violence. Criminals, by definition, evade laws and typically acquire guns through theft, on the black market, from family or friends, or in any number of unlawful ways. Expanding background checks opens the door to a national gun registry and harassment of law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to prevent illegal access to firearms; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the United States Congress, through courageous action, to resist unilateral and improper attempts by the President to take executive actions concerning gun control; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.