

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 278

Introduced by Hunt, 8.

WHEREAS, June 7, 2019, is recognized as National Gun Violence Awareness Day 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; and

WHEREAS, between 2013 and 2017, over 1,200 Nebraska residents died by suicide and nearly half of all suicide deaths were carried out with a gun, killing nearly 600 Nebraskans; and

WHEREAS, on average, one Nebraska resident dies by suicide by gun every three days; and

WHEREAS, gun-related crimes, such as homicides, gun assaults, and gun robberies, have risen by 20 percent in Omaha between 2013 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and countless others are wounded; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the state is among a governor's highest responsibilities; 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, June 2019 would have marked the twenty-second birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless others who are wounded by gun violence every day, June 7, 2019, has been designated as the fifth National Gun Violence Awareness Day;

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 protect themselves and others, and orange is a color that has been embraced by the gun safety movement because it symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange and commemorating National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential stolen by gun violence in America; 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 our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes June 7, 2019, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day and encourages all Nebraskans to support their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.