

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 175**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2013

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ALISON LITTELL MCHOSE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Opposes entertainment industry profiteering from violent entertainment and media.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/10/2013)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** expressing opposition to the
2 entertainment industry's profiteering from depictions of violence
3 in entertainment products.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Recently, a group of television and film celebrities issued a
6 public service announcement (PSA) calling on government officials
7 to address the important issue of gun violence in the United States;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature agrees with the sentiment expressed and
10 notes that, especially in the aftermath of the tragedy in Newtown,
11 Connecticut, there is much we can do as individuals to combat the
12 culture of violence that besets the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Many scientific studies have been conducted over several
14 decades to examine the interplay between depictions of violence in
15 the media and other entertainment on aggressive behavior; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Scientific evidence from these studies have been integrated
17 and summarized in narrative reviews (qualitative) and in meta-
18 analytic reviews (quantitative); and

19 **WHEREAS**, All qualitative and quantitative studies regarding media or
20 entertainment violence and aggression have come to the same
21 conclusion, that depictions of violence desensitize the viewer and
22 increase aggression; and

23 **WHEREAS**, In light of the recent tragedies and the ongoing
24 desensitization of United States citizens caused by violence
25 portrayed in media and entertainment, the Legislature urges all
26 responsible television and film celebrities and their colleagues in
27 the entertainment industry to publicly pledge to refrain from
28 appearing in, promoting, or profiting from entertainment products
29 that depict the violent use of handguns, semi-automatic weapons or
30 "assault weapon" style rifles; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature further urges the corporations that
32 comprise the entertainment and media industries to pledge to
33 voluntarily refrain from producing, promoting, and profiting from
34 entertainment products that depict the violent use of handguns,
35 semi-automatic weapons or "assault weapon" style rifles; now,
36 therefore,

37
38 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
39 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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41 1. The Legislature urges all responsible television and film
42 celebrities, together with all entertainment and media corporations,
43 to publicly pledge to refrain from appearing in, promoting, or
44 profiting from entertainment products that depict the violent use of
45 handguns, semi-automatic weapons, or "assault weapon" style
46 rifles.

1 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution,
2 signed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the General
3 Assembly and attested to by the Secretary of the Senate and the
4 Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be sent to the organization
5 “Mayors Against Illegal Guns,” which produced the public service
6 announcement “Demand a Plan,” and New York City Mayor
7 Michael Bloomberg and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, the
8 founders of “Mayors Against Illegal Guns.”

9
10
11 STATEMENT
12

13 On December 14, 2012, a violent young man stormed into Sandy
14 Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut and murdered
15 six adults and 20 children. In an effort to urge government to take
16 steps to reduce gun violence, the organization “Mayors Against
17 Illegal Guns” produced the public service announcement “Demand
18 a Plan,” in which several celebrities appeared and called upon
19 government officials to take action in response to increased gun
20 violence. The Legislature agrees with the sentiment expressed in
21 the “Demand a Plan” announcement and notes that there is much we
22 can do as individuals to combat the culture of violence that besets
23 the United States.

24 Many scientific studies have been conducted over several
25 decades to examine the interplay between depictions of violence in
26 the media and other entertainment on aggressive behavior. All
27 qualitative and quantitative studies regarding media or
28 entertainment violence and aggression have come to the same
29 conclusion: depictions of violence desensitize the viewer and
30 increases aggression.

31 Government intervention with respect to gun violence can be
32 effective, but remains inherently limited. In light of the recent
33 tragedies and the ongoing desensitization of United States citizens
34 caused by violence portrayed in media and entertainment, this
35 resolution urges all responsible television and film celebrities and
36 their colleagues in the entertainment industry publicly pledge to
37 refrain from appearing in, promoting, or profiting from
38 entertainment products that depict the violent use of handguns,
39 semi-automatic weapons or “assault weapon” style rifles.