

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 163

To establish a special committee of the Senate to study the causes of firearms violence in America.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 1999

Mrs. BOXER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

To establish a special committee of the Senate to study the causes of firearms violence in America.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3 Congress finds that—

4 (1) In the past eleven years, nearly 400,000
5 Americans have died from gunshots, and about
6 35,000 Americans will die in 1999 because of gun
7 violence;

8 (2) Death by gunshots is the second leading
9 cause of accidental death in the United States and

1 is expected to become the number one cause within
2 the next four years;

3 (3) Treating gunshot injuries costs the Amer-
4 ican health care system approximately \$4.5 billion
5 annually, with 80 percent of the costs paid for by
6 the public in tax dollars or cost-shifting.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a special
9 committee of the Senate to be known as the Special Com-
10 mittee on Firearms Violence (hereafter in this resolution
11 referred to as the “special committee”).

12 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the special committee
13 is—

14 (1) to study the causes of firearms violence in
15 America;

16 (2) to make such findings of fact as are war-
17 ranted and appropriate, including the impact of fire-
18 arms violence on the well-being of American chil-
19 dren; and

20 (3) to explore ways to reduce firearms violence
21 in America, including increasing controls on the sale
22 and distribution of firearms, and to make rec-
23 ommendations for such legislation and administra-
24 tive actions as the special committee determines to
25 be necessary and appropriate.

1 No proposed legislation shall be referred to the special
2 committee, nor shall the special committee have power to
3 report by bill or otherwise have legislative jurisdiction.

4 (c) TREATMENT AS STANDING COMMITTEE.—For
5 purposes of paragraphs 1, 2, 7(a) (1) and (2), and 10(a)
6 of rule XXVI and rule XXVII of the Standing Rules of
7 the Senate, and section 202 (i) and (j) of the Legislative
8 Reorganization Act of 1946, the special committee shall
9 be treated as a standing committee of the Senate.

10 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.**

11 (a) MEMBERSHIP.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—the special committee shall
13 consist of 7 members of the Senate—

14 (A) 4 of whom shall be appointed by the
15 President pro tempore of the Senate from the
16 majority party of the Senate upon the rec-
17 ommendation of the Majority Leader of the
18 Senate; and

19 (B) 3 of whom shall be appointed by the
20 President pro tempore of the Senate from the
21 minority party of the Senate upon the rec-
22 ommendation of the Minority Leader of the
23 Senate.

24 (2) VACANCIES.—Vacancies in the membership
25 of the special committee shall not affect the author-

1 ity of the remaining members to execute the func-
2 tions of the special committee and shall be filled in
3 the same manner as original appointments are
4 made.

5 (3) SERVICE.—For the purpose of paragraph 4
6 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate,
7 service of a Senator as a member, chairman, or vice
8 chairman of the special committee shall not be taken
9 into account.

10 (b) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the special com-
11 mittee shall be selected by the Majority Leader of the Sen-
12 ate and the vice chairman of the special committee shall
13 be selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The vice
14 chairman shall discharge such responsibilities as the spe-
15 cial committee or the chairman may assign.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this resolu-
18 tion, the special committee is authorized, in its
19 discretion—

20 (1) to make expenditures from the contingent
21 fund of the Senate;

22 (2) to employ personnel;

23 (3) to hold hearings;

1 (4) to sit and act at any time or place during
2 the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the
3 Senate;

4 (5) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the at-
5 tendance of witnesses and the production of cor-
6 respondence, books, papers, and documents;

7 (6) to take depositions and other testimony;

8 (7) to procure the services of individual con-
9 sultations or organizations thereof, in accordance
10 with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legisla-
11 tive Reorganization Act of 1946; and

12 (8) with the prior consent of the Government
13 department or agency concerned and the Committee
14 on Rules and Administration, to use on a non-
15 reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any
16 such department or agency.

17 (b) OATHS FOR WITNESSES.—The chairman of the
18 special committee or any member thereof may administer
19 oaths to witnesses.

20 (c) SUBPOENAS.—Subpoenas authorized by the spe-
21 cial committee may be—

22 (1) issued over the signature of the chairman
23 after consultation with the vice chairman, or any
24 member of the special committee designated by the

1 chairman after consultation with the vice chairman;
2 and

3 (2) served by any person designated by the
4 chairman or the member signing the subpoena.

5 (d) OTHER COMMITTEE STAFF.—The special com-
6 mittee may use, with the prior consent of the chairman
7 of any other Senate committee or the chairman of any
8 subcommittee of any committee of the Senate and on a
9 nonreimbursable basis, the facilities or services of any
10 members of the staff of such other Senate committee
11 whenever the special committee or its chairman, following
12 consultation with the vice chairman, considers that such
13 action is necessary or appropriate to enable the special
14 committee to make the investigation and study provided
15 for in this resolution.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORT AND TERMINATION.**

17 The special committee shall report its findings, to-
18 gether with such recommendations as it deems appro-
19 priate, to the Senate prior to December 31, 2000.

20 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the date this resolution is
22 agreed to through December 31, 2000, the expenses of
23 the special committee incurred under this resolution shall
24 be paid out of the miscellaneous items account of the con-
25 tingent fund of the Senate and shall not exceed \$250,000

1 for the period beginning on the date of adoption of this
2 resolution through March 1, 2000, and \$250,000 for the
3 period of March 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000, of
4 which amount not to exceed \$75,000 shall be available for
5 each period for the procurement of the services of indi-
6 vidual consultants, or organization thereof, as authorized
7 by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of
8 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i)).

9 (b) PAYMENT OF BENEFITS.—The retirement and
10 health benefits of employees of the special committee shall
11 be paid out of the miscellaneous items account of the con-
12 tingent fund of the Senate.

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