

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.23

Reps. Manoogian, Anthony, Brixie, Tyrone Carter and Greig offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to urge the Michigan State Capitol
2 Commission to prohibit firearms in public areas of the state
3 Capitol building and within the immediate vicinity of the building,
4 with exemptions for legislative sergeants at arms and law
5 enforcement officers, and to install security screening checkpoints
6 at entrances of the state Capitol building.

7 Whereas, The Michigan State Capitol Commission, pursuant to
8 the Michigan State Capitol Historic Site Act, 2013 PA 240,
9 exercises control over the public areas of the state Capitol
10 building and its grounds, including the rotunda and its galleries,
11 the main corridors, the grand staircases, the ground floor
12 entrances, and outdoor staircases; and

13 Whereas, The state Capitol building is a working government



1 building. It houses the Senate and House chambers, Appropriations
2 Committee rooms, and several legislative offices. Michigan
3 legislators and staff regularly undertake the business of the state
4 in the state Capitol building; and

5 Whereas, The state Capitol building is also the people's
6 building. The state Capitol is open to school groups and
7 individuals who explore the history of Michigan and its government
8 and appreciate the structure itself. Hundreds of individuals may
9 access the state Capitol building on any given day. Open access to
10 the state Capitol allows Michigan citizens to learn our history,
11 observe the legislative process, voice their opinions, and directly
12 meet government representatives to address personal and
13 professional needs; and

14 Whereas, It is important that legislators, staff, and the
15 public are safe in the state Capitol building. Allowing individuals
16 to carry firearms in the state Capitol building exposes state
17 employees and citizens to unnecessary risk. The presence of
18 firearms is meant to intimidate legislators, interrupt the
19 democratic process, and block the ability of legislators to
20 properly represent their constituents; and

21 Whereas, The Michigan State Capitol Commission does have
22 authority to restrict firearms possession in the state Capitol
23 building. The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed,
24 "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not
25 unlimited." In the Court's opinion in *District of Columbia v.*
26 *Heller*, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote that "nothing in our opinion
27 should be taken to cast doubt on...laws forbidding the carrying of
28 firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government
29 buildings." Allowing citizens to bring firearms into the Michigan



1 state Capitol building is not, therefore, a constitutional right;
2 and

3 Whereas, Prohibiting firearms possession in the state Capitol
4 building and in its immediate vicinity and installing security
5 screening checkpoints for individuals and their personal property
6 to enforce the prohibition will ensure legislators, staff, and
7 Michigan residents remain safe while using the state Capitol
8 building; now, therefore, be it

9 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
10 concurring), That we urge the Michigan State Capitol Commission to
11 prohibit firearms in public areas of the state Capitol building and
12 within the immediate vicinity of the building, as the Commission
13 may determine, while exempting legislative sergeants at arms and
14 law enforcement officers so that they may properly protect
15 legislators and the public; and be it further

16 Resolved, That we urge the Michigan State Capitol Commission
17 to install security screening checkpoints for individuals and their
18 personal property at entrances of the state Capitol building; and
19 be it further

20 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
21 members of the Michigan State Capitol Commission.

