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June 1, 2022

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 7910, the “Protecting Our Kids Act,” an omnibus package of eight previously introduced bills focused on preventing firearm violence. In addition to the horrific massacres within ten days in Buffalo and Uvalde, there have been at least 17 mass shootings in the past week across the country according to the Gun Violence Archive. Moreover, since 1975, more Americans have died from firearms—including suicides, murders, accidents—than in all the wars in U.S. history going back to the American Revolution. Each year more than 45,000 Americans die by gunfire, and recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that firearm deaths are increasing, and disparities are widening, with young people, males, and Black people experiencing the highest firearm homicide rates. The AMA refuses to believe that the carnage from mass shootings and daily gunfire is acceptable.

Gun violence is a public health crisis, and as with other public health areas, evidence-based interventions are needed for reducing deaths and injuries. As physicians, our mission is to heal and to maintain health. Most firearm injuries and deaths are preventable. Over the past two decades, the AMA has developed numerous policy recommendations to reduce firearm-related trauma, injury, and death, and we support the following provisions included in H.R. 7910:

- increasing the purchasing age for semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21;
- banning the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer or possession of high-capacity ammunition magazines and bump stocks and related devices;
- closing the “ghost-gun loophole;” and
- creating federal requirements for safe gun storage and establishing strong penalties for any violations.

We urge the Committee on the Judiciary to approve this legislative package as a step forward in helping to reduce the toll of firearm-related violence on our schoolchildren and communities. The AMA is hopeful Congress can achieve a bipartisan package to reduce gun violence that will be signed into law.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD