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July 24, 2017

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am pleased to write in support of your recently-introduced legislation, S. 834, which would provide funding for research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on firearm safety and gun violence prevention. AMA policy supports providing sufficient resources to enable the CDC to conduct an epidemiological analysis of the data on firearm-related injuries and deaths, and to issue a public report so that physicians and other health care providers, law enforcement, and society at large may be able to prevent injury, death, and the other harms resulting from firearms.

From the public health perspective, any comprehensive plan to address and prevent gun violence in the United States must include further research into this problem. Firearm injuries are one of the top three causes of death among youth, and, behind motor vehicle injuries, firearm injuries are the second leading cause of injury and mortality in the United States. Yet, for over 20 years the CDC has lacked support from Congress to conduct firearm violence research. The paucity of gun violence research has contributed to the lack of meaningful progress in reducing firearm-related injuries. Significant research investments could address these issues by helping provide a more accurate understanding of the problems associated with gun violence and to determine how best to reduce the high rate of firearm-related deaths and injuries. Your legislation would allow the CDC to move forward with research that could help to prevent future mass shootings, gang violence, suicides, and other homicides.

The AMA applauds your leadership in sponsoring this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD