

June 1, 2018

Chris Barsotti, MD
Chief Executive Officer
American Foundation for Firearm Injury
Reduction in Medicine
P. O. Box 503
Williamstown, MA 01267

Re: AMA support for the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine

Dear Dr. Barsotti:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am pleased to express the AMA's support for the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine (AFFIRM).

The AMA, among other leading health organizations, has singled out gun violence in the clearest possible terms calling it a public health crisis that requires a comprehensive and multifaceted public health solution. With more than 32,000 of our fellow Americans killed each year at the barrel of a gun, we must make a real and lasting commitment to prevent future tragedies.

As physicians, we rely on a science-based approach to problem solving and know that, like with any urgent public health threat, solutions must be developed through evidence, understanding and extensive research. The AMA believes that robust study into the underlying causes of gun violence and effectiveness of potential interventions is necessary to reversing course and preventing further injury, death and other harms to society resulting from firearms.

It is unfortunate and, indeed, counterproductive that political influences discourage even the most fundamental research into gun violence – as gun violence continues to devastate our communities. The AMA has and will continue to press Congress to take action now to reduce the threat of injury or death from firearms with dedicated federal funding for research. But we cannot wait for Congress to act.

That is why we are proud to partner with AFFIRM to fill the research gap. Through its important work, AFFIRM seeks to raise private funding to support research into the causes of gun violence, risk factors associated with gun violence, and potential interventions. From this research will emerge best practice recommendations, clinical educational resources and evidence-based training curricula to be integrated into medical education and clinical practice.

It is imperative that we address gun violence as a public health problem and fund the studies needed to develop effective prevention strategies. Solving this crisis will require us all to work together, and the

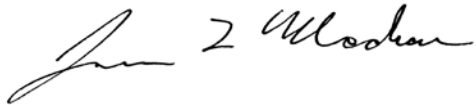
Chris Barsotti, MD

June 1, 2018

Page 2

AMA stands ready to help in any way we can. Please contact Annalia Michelman, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org, or (312) 464-4788 to discuss collaboration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Gerald E. Harmon, MD

Albert J. Osbahr, III, MD