



JAMES L. MADARA, MD  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

ama-assn.org  
t (312) 464-5000

June 21, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member Lowey, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association, I am writing to urge you to specifically provide federal support for gun violence research in appropriations for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Fiscal Year 2019. Gun violence continues to take a significant toll on our patients and our communities. As scientists and advocates for our patients, physicians must be led by evidence in addressing the impact of gun violence on individuals and populations as a whole.

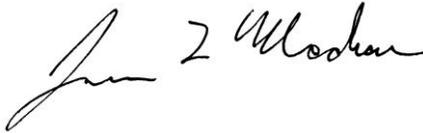
The paucity of federally supported research on the epidemiology of gun violence severely limits the ability of our communities to implement effective interventions that would help stem this tide. A research letter published in the January 3, 2017 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* provides stark evidence of the lack of necessary research. According to the authors, gun violence is the least researched cause of death, receiving only 1.6 percent of the funding that would be expected based on mortality rate. Furthermore, the letter notes that “Given that gun violence disproportionately affects the young and inflicts many more nonfatal injuries than deaths, it is likely that the true magnitude of research funding disparity, when considering years of potential life lost or lived with disability, is even greater.”

We appreciate the comments of HHS Secretary Azar to this committee when he stated that “we don’t see any barriers around violence or firearm violence research. We’re in the evidence and science-gathering business.” Unfortunately, while there may be no statutory prohibition, agencies still appear reluctant to engage in this research, potentially due to a lack of clear direction or specific funding from the Congress.

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
The Honorable Tom Cole  
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
June 21, 2018  
Page 2

We therefore urge your committees to provide specific funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and other appropriate federal entities to research the epidemiology of gun violence so that effective interventions may be implemented and lives may be saved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "L" before the name "Madara".

James L. Madara, MD