

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, **the undersigned 200 national, state, and local medical, public health, and research organizations write to ask you to provide \$50 million in funding shared evenly between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.**

We would like to thank Congress for providing \$25 million for this public health research to the CDC and NIH in FY 2020, and the House for including \$50 million in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill (H.R. 2740). This initial investment was a crucial step toward applying a public health approach to increasing gun safety and reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths, and continued and expanded investments are essential to the success of this important work.

Firearm-related injuries are a public health crisis that led to 39,740 fatalities in 2018,ⁱ and this research is an important response to this epidemic. The foundation of a public health approach is rigorous research that can accurately quantify and describe the facets of an issue and identify opportunities for reducing its related morbidity and mortality. Federally funded public health research has a proven track record of reducing public health-related deaths, whether from motor vehicle crashes, smoking, or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Over time, this funding can generate needed research into important issues such as the best ways to prevent unintended firearm injuries and fatalities among women and children; the most effective methods to prevent firearm-related suicides; the measures that can best prevent the next shooting at a school or public place; and numerous other vital public health questions. However, increased funding is still needed to overcome the decades-long lack of federal funding that set back our response to the public health issue of firearm-related morbidity and mortality.

Our groups strongly urge the House to increase funding to the CDC and NIH for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research to a total of \$50 million as part of FY 2021 appropriations. Continued and expanded funding could support the creation of 10 to 20 new

large multi-year studies and accelerate the rebuilding of a research community that shrank in the decades before Congress restored this federal funding. Robust and sustained research on motor vehicle crashes and subsequent legislation has helped save hundreds of thousands of lives through public health interventions, including seat belts and other safety features. The same approach can help reduce gun violence in our communities, including ensuring that the CDC and NIH are able to adequately fund non-biased, evidence-based research into this public health priority.

Our organizations stand ready to work with you to support this critical effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Art Therapy Association
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Surgeons
American Educational Research Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Pediatric Otolaryngology (ASPO)
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Sociological Association

American Thoracic Society
American Trauma Society
Association for Psychological Science
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Pediatric Program Directors
Association of Population Centers
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Brain Injury Association of America
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for American Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Injury Prevention Alliance
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council on Pediatric Subspecialties
Council on Social Work Education
Doctors for America
Emergency Nurses Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Futures Without Violence
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Healthy Teen Network
International Association of Forensic Nurses
The Jewish Federations of North America
Jewish Women International
KidsAndCars.org
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Organization for Women
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Safety Council

National Women's Health Network
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
North American Primary Care Research Group
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Pediatric Endocrine Society
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America
Pediatric Policy Council
Population Association of America
Prevention Institute
SAFE- Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic
Safe States Alliance
School Social Work Association of America
Scoliosis Research Society
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
Society for Pediatric Anesthesia
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Trust for America's Health
Ujima, Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
ZERO TO THREE

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Alaska Public Health Association
American Academy of Pediatrics - Arizona Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics - California Chapter 3
American Academy of Pediatrics - Hawaii Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2
American Academy of Pediatrics Georgia Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 1
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 2
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 3
American Academy of Pediatrics Puerto Rico Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Orange County Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter
Arizona Public Health Association
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Wisconsin
Colorado Public Health Association

Connecticut Psychiatric Society
Connecticut Public Health Organization
DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics
Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Cincinnati
Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Pittsburgh
Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County, FL
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Kentucky Psychiatric Medical Association
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association
Louisiana Public Health Association
Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Public Health Association
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Psychiatric Society
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Public Health Association
Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Public Health Association
Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians
New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
New Hampshire Chapter of the American College of Physicians
New Hampshire Psychiatric Society
New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
New Jersey Psychiatric Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
New York State Public Health Association
North Carolina Pediatric Society

North Dakota Rural Health Association
Northern California Psychiatric Society
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Oregon Pediatric Society
Oregon Public Health Association
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Psychiatric Medical Association of New Mexico
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island Psychiatric Society
Rhode Island Public Health Association (RIPHA)
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
South Dakota Public Health Association
Southern California Public Health Association
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee Psychiatric Association
Tennessee Public Health Association
Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Utah Public Health Association
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. Accessed February 25, 2020. Available at: www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars.