

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,<sup>i</sup> 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

---

<sup>i</sup> 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](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars).