



October 16, 2019

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
326 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Charles Schumer  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, Schumer, and McConnell:

As you consider final appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020, we, the undersigned organizations representing over 560,000 frontline physicians dedicated to the health and wellbeing of American families in all 50 states, urge you to include \$50 million in funding for public health research on preventing firearm-related morbidity and mortality. We applaud the inclusion of this funding in the U.S. House-passed appropriations legislation and urge its inclusion in any final appropriations package.

Firearm violence is a public health concern that negatively affects the patients for whom our members care. Over 39,000 individuals lost their lives to firearm-related injuries in 2017. Two-thirds of gun-related deaths are deaths by suicide--a number that continues to rise. Federally funded public health research has played a significant role in addressing other public health crises such as youth smoking and motor vehicle crashes. We need to apply the same rigorous scientific approach to reducing injuries and deaths associated with firearms.

With this research, we will be able to better understand and quantify the scope, root causes, and impact of gun violence and identify opportunities to reduce injuries and fatalities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are positioned to make complementary contributions to this area. With an investment of \$50 million at CDC and NIH, scientific researchers could conduct 10 to 20 new large multiyear studies each year (or even more single-year studies).

An appropriation of \$50 million as part of any final FY 2020 appropriations will help advance critical scientific discoveries that can address a public health crisis that threatens the health and safety of the patients for whom we care. We stand ready to work with you to support this critical effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association

Cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Tom Cole

#### ***About the American Academy of Family Physicians***

*Founded in 1947, the AAFP represents 134,600 physicians and medical students nationwide. It is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care. Family physicians conduct approximately one in five office visits -- that's 192 million visits annually or 48 percent more than the next most visited medical specialty. Today, family physicians provide more care for America's underserved and rural populations than any other medical specialty. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on integrated care. To learn more about the specialty of family medicine, the AAFP's positions on issues and clinical care, and for downloadable multi-media highlighting family medicine, visit [www.aafp.org/media](http://www.aafp.org/media). For information about health care, health conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP's award-winning consumer website, [www.familydoctor.org](http://www.familydoctor.org).*

#### ***About the American Academy of Pediatrics***

*The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) and follow us on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds.*

#### ***About the American College of Physicians***

*The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with members in more than 145 countries worldwide. ACP membership includes 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related , and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Follow ACP on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).*

#### ***About the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists***

*The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (The College), a 501(c)(3) organization, is the nation's leading group of physicians providing health care for women. As a private, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization of more than 58,000 members, The College strongly advocates for quality health care for women, maintains the highest standards of clinical practice and continuing education of its members, promotes patient education, and increases awareness among its members and the public*

*of the changing issues facing women's health care. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), a 501(c)(6) organization, is its companion.*

#### ***About the American Osteopathic Association***

*The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) represents more than 145,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for DOs; and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. To learn more about DOs and the osteopathic philosophy of medicine, visit [www.DoctorsThatDO.org](http://www.DoctorsThatDO.org).*

#### ***About the American Psychiatric Association***

*The American Psychiatric Association, founded in 1844, is the oldest medical association in the country. The APA is also the largest psychiatric association in the world with more than 38,500 physician members specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses. APA's vision is to ensure access to quality psychiatric diagnosis and treatment. For more information please visit [www.psychiatry.org](http://www.psychiatry.org).*