



February 8, 2019

The Honorable Robin Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 131,400 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to support your legislation to require the U.S. Surgeon General to submit an annual report to Congress on gun violence's impact on public health and recommended actions. Thank you for your commitment to our nation's health and safety.

The AAFP proudly supports the *Recognizing Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency Act of 2019* in light of recent statistics indicating that 40,000 firearm deaths occurred in recent years. This is tragic and historically high data. As a matter of official policy, the AAFP recognizes firearm-related deaths, injuries, and violence as a significant public health problem. AAFP supports increased research into all areas of how violence involving the use of firearms affects public health, including the epidemiology, prevention, and risks related to weapon usage. Family physicians care for gun violence victims every day, and ultimately, we support primary prevention strategies to protect individuals and communities. We also believe that federal and state governments can respect gun ownership while protecting the nation's health and well-being.

Again, we are pleased to support this important legislation. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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