

February 22, 2018

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The undersigned 75 national medical, health, public health, and research organizations write to urge you – again - to find a bipartisan path forward for comprehensive legislative solutions to firearm-related injuries and fatalities.

Many of our groups previously wrote to you after massacres in Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs. We write to you now because on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 17 children and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, lost their lives at the hands of an individual with an assault weapon. Over and over again, such mass shootings are the tragic inflection points that exemplify the daily toll that gun violence takes on the lives of Americans. In 2016, there were over 38,000 U.S. firearm-related fatalities.<sup>1</sup> It is critical that we address gun violence as the significant public health threat that it is, so that we can enact policies that significantly reduce firearm-related morbidity and mortality.

Policymakers have an opportunity to respond to this public health challenge with bipartisan solutions that reduce injuries and fatalities associated with firearms. Federal policy should address gun violence with the same dedication applied to other successful public health initiatives over the past 25 years, such as immunizations, public sanitation, and motor vehicle safety. Reducing injury and mortality through research and evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies has been proven to improve health, safety, and life expectancy.

Strengthening firearm background checks and supporting funding for federal research and public health surveillance on firearm-related injuries and fatalities would provide meaningful progress in achieving a public health solution for this issue. We urge you to find a bipartisan path forward to enact commonsense solutions that address the public health threat of firearm-related injuries and fatalities. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to support that critical effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom  
Academic Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Art Therapy Association  
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Board of Pediatrics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive  
American Counseling Association  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pediatric Surgical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Child Injury Prevention Alliance  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Health Fund  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Council on Social Work Education  
Doctors for America  
First Focus  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Healthy Teen Network  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Physicians Alliance  
National Register of Health Service Psychologists  
National Women's Health Network  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Institute  
Safe States Alliance  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Trailhead Institute for Public Health Innovation  
Trust for America's Health  
Urgent Care Association of America

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<sup>i</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm\\_mortality/firearm.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm)