

April 28, 2022

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

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the undersigned 288 national, state, and local medical, public health, and research organizations write to ask you to **provide \$35 million for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and \$25 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.** We also encourage Congress to explore opportunities for building out and further supporting this research at all other appropriate agencies, to ensure that federally funded research can explore the full scope of this public health issue. A recent, rigorous report estimated that the federal government will need to spend approximately \$100 million per year to fully fund a comprehensive research agenda on reducing gun violence.<sup>1</sup>

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the U.S. continue to suffer from the public health crisis of firearm-related injuries and deaths. In 2020, the most recent year for which we have data, firearm-related injuries led to 45,222 fatalities,<sup>2</sup> an increase of nearly 15% over the previous year. A public health approach is urgently needed to promote health equity and address the disproportionate burden of firearm injuries on communities of color and to understand the strategies that can be most effective in preventing suicides, unintentional injuries, and interpersonal violence. The foundation of this 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.

We would like to thank Congress for its continued support for this public health research in FY22, providing \$12.5 million each to the CDC and NIH for the third consecutive fiscal year. These initial investments are a crucial step toward applying a public health approach to increasing gun safety and reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths, and we are excited to see these funds contributing to important research projects that are now underway. The CDC has made 18 awards for two- and three-year projects to improve scientific understanding of firearm-related violence and to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of prevention strategies.<sup>3</sup> Several of these projects will conclude this year and provide insights on how to reduce suicide risk in U.S. Army soldiers and veterans and how to improve efforts to reduce urban firearm injuries, among other topics. The NIH is funding research on the determinants of firearm injury, the identification of those at risk, and the evaluation of innovative interventions.<sup>4,5</sup>

These initial investments are important, but increased funding is still needed to overcome the decades-long lack of federal funding that set back our nation's response to the public health issue of firearm-related morbidity and mortality. The agencies have received many more proposals than they are able to fund, and additional funding can generate 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.

**Our groups strongly urge Congress to increase the funding level to \$35 million for the CDC and \$25 million for the NIH for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research as part of FY 2023 appropriations.** Continued and expanded funding could support the creation of additional, 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 firearm-related injuries 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. Exploring additional agencies to fund for this work would also ensure this research can address all necessary areas of inquiry and move us closer to the approximately \$100 million necessary annually to fully support this research field.

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

Sincerely,

**National Organizations:**

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care  
AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery  
Academic Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Anthropological 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 Surgeons  
American Educational Research Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Medical Association

American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
American Nurses Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pediatric Surgical Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Counselor Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons  
American Sociological Association  
American Thoracic Society  
American Trauma Society  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Child Injury Prevention Alliance  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's Hospital Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Pediatric Subspecialties  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Council on Social Work Education  
Doctors for America  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Healthy Teen Network  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Kids and Car Safety  
MomsRising

Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse  
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 Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Organization for Women  
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives  
National PTA  
National Safety Council  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Population Association of America  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Institute  
Research!America  
Safe States Alliance  
Sandy Hook Promise  
Scoliosis Research Society  
Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic, Inc. (SAFE)  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Anesthesia  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)  
Society of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)  
The American Psychoanalytic Association  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Trust for America's Health  
Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community  
YMCA of the USA  
Youth Villages

## **State and Local Organizations:**

AIDS Foundation Chicago  
Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Pediatrics - Arizona Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 1  
American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2  
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 2  
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 3  
American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Alaska Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Atrium Health  
Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist  
Brain Injury Association of America-Kentucky Chapter  
Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City  
Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts  
California ACEP  
Cambridge Public Health Department  
Cape Fear Valley Medical Center  
Cedar Rapids NOW  
Chicago Department of Public Health  
Children's Home & Aid  
Children's Wisconsin  
Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance  
Colorado Public Health Association  
Columbia University Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence, Teachers College  
Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
DC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
District of Columbia ACEP Chapter  
Duke Health  
FL0365 Pasco County National Organization for Women, Inc.  
Florida Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics  
Florida College of Emergency Physicians  
Georgia Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Greater New York Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Hawaii ACEP Chapter

Hawaii Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Idaho College of Emergency Physicians  
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians  
Illinois Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Indiana Public Health Association  
Iowa ACEP Chapter  
Iowa Chapter – National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kentucky Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kentucky Public Health Association  
Lee County Chapter of NOW  
Legal Council for Health Justice  
Los Angeles, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians  
Maine Public Health Association  
Maryland ACEP Chapter  
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maryland Public Health Association  
Maryland-Chesapeake Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Massachusetts Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Mental Health America of Hawaii  
Michigan Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Minnesota Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Mission Health  
Mission Hospital  
Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Moses Cone Hospital  
National Organization for Women, Columbia Area  
National Organization for Women, Missouri

NC National Organization for Women (NC NOW)  
NC Public Health Association  
Nebraska ACEP  
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 Psychiatric Society  
New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center  
New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association  
New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians  
New Mexico Pediatric Society  
New York State American Academy of Pediatrics District II  
New York State Public Health Association  
NJ Public Health Association  
North Carolina Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Surgeons  
North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians  
North Carolina Committee on Trauma  
North Carolina Committee on Trauma/ American College of Surgeons  
North Carolina Pediatric Society  
North Carolina State Trauma Advisory Committee  
North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Novant Health  
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
Ohio Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Ohio National Organization for Women  
Oklahoma Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics  
Orange County, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Oregon Chapter of ACEP  
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Advisory Committee  
Oregon Pediatric Society  
Oregon Public Health Association  
PBC National Organization for Women  
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter – National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Pennsylvania-Delaware Valley Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence  
Portland State University  
Public Health-Seattle & King County  
Public Policy Witness, Presbytery of the James

Puerto Rico Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics  
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Rhode Island Public Health Association  
Rochester NOW  
Sacramento Valley, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Safe Kids Cleveland County  
San Francisco Bay, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Santa Fe NOW  
South Carolina Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
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 (SCPHA)  
Tennessee ACEP Chapter  
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Tennessee College of Emergency Physicians  
Tennessee Public Health Association  
Texas Pediatric Society  
The Maryland Psychiatric Society  
Trinity Health  
University of Michigan  
Utah Public Health Association  
Vermont Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians  
Vidant Medical Center  
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Virginia Public Health Association  
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Washington State Public Health Association  
West Virginia Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics  
West Virginia College of Emergency Physicians  
Will County NOW  
Wisconsin Chapter – National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians  
Wisconsin Public Health Association  
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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<sup>1</sup> Health Management Associates. Cost Estimate of Federal Funding for Gun Violence Research and Data Infrastructure.

<https://assets.joycefdn.org/content/uploads/CostEstimateofFederalFundingforGunViolenceResearch.pdf>. Report prepared for Arnold Ventures and the Joyce Foundations. Published July 13, 2021. Accessed February 15, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on Feb 15, 2022.



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<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Firearm Violence Prevention: Funded Research. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/funded-research.html>. Accessed February 15, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. NIH awards grants for firearm injury and mortality prevention research. Available at: <https://obssr.od.nih.gov/nih-awards-grants-for-firearm-injury-and-mortality-prevention-research/>. Accessed February 15, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. NIH awards 10 grants addressing firearm violence prevention. Available at <https://obssr.od.nih.gov/news-and-events/news/director-voice/nih-awards-10-grants-addressing-firearm-violence-prevention>. Accessed February 15, 2022.