



January 23, 2019

The Honorable Ed Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Markey:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to offer our strong support for the Gun Violence Prevention Research Act of 2019, S. 184. This legislation introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress would authorize appropriated funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to study firearms safety and gun violence prevention. We applaud your continued efforts to reduce firearms-related violence through common-sense legislation. As an organization representing physicians who see first-hand the devastating impact firearms-related injuries and deaths have on the health of their patients, we have a responsibility to be part of the solution in trying to mitigate firearms-related tragedies. We stand ready to work with you to advance this important legislation.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, 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.

We remain alarmed by the tragic toll of firearms violence in our neighborhoods, homes, workplaces, and public spaces. Deaths and injuries from firearms are not just a result of mass shootings, they are a daily occurrence. In 2017, almost 40,000 Americans lost their lives to firearms, according to statistics [compiled](#) by the CDC. This issue represents an urgent public health crisis, and now is the time to act on measures to improve the safety of all Americans.

As data-driven decision makers, ACP has long advocated for robust research about the causes and consequences of firearm violence and unintentional injuries as well as for strategies to reduce firearm-related injuries. The College believes that more research is needed on firearm violence and on intervention and prevention strategies to reduce injuries and deaths caused by firearms. The CDC should receive adequate funding to study the effect of firearm violence and unintentional firearm-related injury on public health and safety. The College strongly supports allocating \$50 million each year for fiscal years 2020 to 2025 for the CDC to fund research on the prevention of firearms-related injuries and deaths to support at least 10 to 20 multi-year studies and help rebuild lost research capacity in this area of study. Access to data should not be restricted, as gaps in data are a major barrier to robust scientific research.

In conclusion, for more than 20 years, ACP has urged the adoption of [policies](#) to research and study injuries related to firearms violence. A brief summary of ACP's updated position paper about this issue can be found [here](#). We remain committed to this endeavor and we call on Congress to pass this bill as a necessary first step in addressing the public health crisis created by firearms violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ana María López".

Ana María López, MD, MPH, MACP  
President