

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, the undersigned **410** 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), \$25 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$1 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.

We represent many medical, public health, and research organizations, including members who are proud firearm owners. The freedom of individuals to own firearms can and should be balanced with protecting children and their families from serious harm, and ensuring the health, security, and well-being of all people. This is why our organizations strongly support federal funding for research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.

We are grateful to Congress for providing \$12.5 million for the CDC and \$12.5 million for the NIH in FY 2026 and encourage Congress to sustain and build on this funding in FY 2027. Across this country, communities are suffering from preventable firearm-related injuries and deaths. Suicide, violent crime, and accidental shootings cause trauma to families, communities, and children affected by these preventable tragedies. In 2024, the most recent year for which we have provisional data, firearm-related injuries led to an estimated 44,492 total fatalities, with suicides contributing to more than half of those deaths.

After decades without dedicated funding, Congress came together in 2019 to reach a bipartisan agreement to provide this research funding in the FY 2020 spending bill that was signed into law by President Trump. We are grateful for these continued investments and their positive impact in

the lives of Americans. These initial research investments are a crucial step toward 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.

Since 2020, the CDC and NIH have made dozens of awards for two- and three-year projects in states all across the country to improve scientific understanding of firearm-related morbidity and mortality and to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of death and injury prevention strategies, as well as determinants of firearm injury, the identification of those at risk, and the evaluation of innovative interventions. Several of these projects provide insights on how to reduce suicide risk in U.S. Army soldiers and veterans, how to partner with families and adolescents to promote firearm safety, how to improve intervention strategies to reduce youth violence, how to help families with loved ones experiencing dementia talk through secure storage solutions, and the relationship between firearm access and opioid-related harm on firearm suicide risk, among other topics. This research is already yielding valuable results: we now have insight into screening tools and interventions for healthcare settings that could help prevent future violence and suicide among people at risk, and into the use of crisis hotline data to better understand how mass shootings impact young people.

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. A 2021 report by Health Management Associates estimated that the federal government will need to spend approximately \$100 million per year to fully fund a comprehensive research agenda on reducing firearm morbidity and mortality. At current funding levels, agencies receive many more quality proposals than they are able to fund. With additional funding, we can research the most effective methods to prevent firearm-related suicides, measures to help prevent the next shooting at a school or public place, how to help law enforcement address illegal guns in our communities, and numerous other vital public health questions.

Our groups strongly urge Congress to increase the funding level to \$35 million for the CDC, \$25 million for the NIH, and \$1 million for the NIJ for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research as part of FY 2027 appropriations. Continuing this funding is critical, and expanded funding could support the creation of additional, multi-year studies and accelerate the rebuilding of a research community that shrank in the decades before Congress restored this federal funding under the Trump administration. 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, NIH, and NIJ are able to adequately fund non-biased, evidence-based research into this health priority.

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

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Academic Pediatric Association

Access Ready Inc.

Advocate Health

AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services

American Academy of Emergency Medicine

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Nursing

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Anthropological Association

American Art Therapy Association

American Association for Community Psychiatry

American Association for Emergency Psychiatry

American Association for the Surgery of Trauma

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 Osteopathic Emergency Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American College of Surgeons

American Educational Research Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Geriatrics Society

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 Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Counselor Association
American Society for Pediatric Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons
American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization
American Thoracic Society
American Trauma Society
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Bioethics Program Directors
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Professionals Solving the Abuse of Children (APSAC)
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
Baylor College of Medicine
Be Strong Families
Big Cities Health Coalition
Camp Fire
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Child Injury Prevention Alliance
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Health Fund
Children's Hospital Association
Coalition for National Trauma Research
Columbia Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Pediatric Subspecialties
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
Doctors for America
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foster Care Alumni of America
Futures Without Violence
Gender Inclusion in Water and Sanitation
Gerontological Society of America
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health & Social Justice
Government Services Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Grandmothers for Gun Responsibility
Healthy Teen Network
Injury Free Coalition for Kids
J. Richardson Consulting
Jewish Women International
Just Solutions
Justice + Joy National Collaborative
Kinnect
Mad Learning Lab
MomsRising
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization for Women
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National PTA
NAPCRG
Newtown Action Alliance
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
OnCall4Kids

Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Peace Through Action USA
Pediatric Policy Council
Pediatric Trauma Society (PTS)
Pediatric & Young Adult Oncology & Sociology
PIRE: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
Population Association of America
Prevention Institute
Primary Care Development Corporation
Public Health Research Presentations & Publications
Research!America
Research Institute for Key Indicators Data Laboratory
Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm Related Harms
Respect Together
SAFE - Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic
Safe States Alliance
Sandy Hook Promise
Social Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Anesthesia
Society for Pediatric Pathology
Society for Pediatric Radiology
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
Society for Social Work and Research
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention
The Institute for Human Services
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Federation of Families
The Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA)

The Society of Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeons
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The Susan Jolley Foundation
The Urban Political Pipeline and Advocacy Network
Trinity Health
Youth Villages

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama

Alabama Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics
Alabama Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Emergency Physicians-Alabama Chapter
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Alabama Chapter
VOICES for Alabama's Children

Alaska

Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Alaska Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
Alaska Public Health Association

Arizona

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Arizona Chapter
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

Arkansas

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California

American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 1
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
Antelope Valley Partners for Health
California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
Centers for Violence Prevention, University of California, Davis
Choices for Freedom Inc
Consumer Protection Policy Center
East Bay Asian Youth Center
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Orange County, California Chapter
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, San Francisco, California Chapter

Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay
Southern California Public Health Association
UCLA Health
UCSF
Youth Alive

Colorado

American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter
Colorado Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians

Connecticut

Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians (CCEP)
Connecticut Public Health Association

Delaware

Delaware Academy of Medicine & Public Health
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Delaware Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Kohnlinq, Inc.
WeKonnnect, LLC.

District of Columbia

American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter
DC Public Health Association
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, District of Columbia Chapter

Florida

FL National Organization for Women
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida Chapter, American College of Physicians
Florida College of Emergency Physicians (FCEP)
Greater Orlando National Organization for Women
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Florida Chapter
Physicians for Social Responsibility/Florida Chapter

Georgia

Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Georgia Clinicians for Gun Safety
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Georgia Majority for Gun Safety
Georgia Public Health Association
University of Georgia
Valley Healthcare System Inc. - Federally Qualified Health Center

Hawaii

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter, Inc.
Hawaii Public Health Association

Idaho

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Illinois

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP)
Illinois National Organization for Women
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Mothers War on Violence Ministry
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Illinois Chapter
Will County NOW

Indiana

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence
Indiana Association of School Nurses
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Indiana Public Health Association
Indiana University Bloomington
Marion County Commission on Youth

Iowa

Iowa Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians
Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Iowa Public Health Association

Kansas

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky

Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Physicians
Kentucky Psychological Association
Kentucky Public Health Association
KY Chapter of the AAP
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

Louisiana

Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
Louisiana Public Health Association (LPHA)
The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Tulane University Violence Prevention Institute
VIA LINK

Maine

Dirigo Maine Geriatrics Society
Healthcare Advocates of Maine
Healthy Acadia
Indivisible Washington County Maine
Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Children's Trust
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Gun Safety Coalition
Maine Medical Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maine Providers for Gun Safety
Maine Psychological Association
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Veterans for Peace Chapter 001

Maine Women's Lobby
National Association of Social Workers - Maine Chapter
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine
Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Maryland

Innovating Minds LLC
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine
LifeBridge Health Center for Hope
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP)
Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
Maryland Psychiatric Society, Inc.
MOORE | Preventing Child Sexual Abuse
NAMI Howard County, MD
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Maryland Chesapeake Chapter
The Parents' Place of MD
PROGRESS University of Maryland

Massachusetts

Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA)
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Massachusetts Chapter
The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Organization
YMCA of Greater Boston

Michigan

Brain Injury Association of Michigan
Corewell Health Children's
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan College of Emergency Physicians
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners - Michigan Chapter
Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence
Starfish Family Services

Minnesota

Children's Minnesota
Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians
Minnesota Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Minnesota Medical Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
Protect MN

Mississippi

Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Missouri

Center on Violence and Health, Washington University in St. Louis
Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Missouri College of Emergency Physicians
Missouri Public Health Association
National Organization for Women, Columbia Area
National Organization for Women, Missouri

Montana

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Public Health Association

Nebraska

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners - Midwest Chapter
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Public Health Association of Nebraska

Nevada

Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Nevada Public Health Association

New Hampshire

NHAAP
NHACEP
NHAFP
NH Psychiatric Society

New Jersey

Family Voices NJ
Health Resources in Action
NAMI Essex/Passaic
New Jersey Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association (NJPHA)
NJ ACEP
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
The Urban Health Collaborative

New Mexico

New Mexico Association of School Psychologists
New Mexico American College of Emergency Physicians
New Mexico Pediatric Society, the New Mexico Chapter of the AAP
Santa Fe National Organization for Women

New York

AAP New York Chapter 1
Blythedale Children's Hospital
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Greater New York State Chapter
New York American College of Emergency Physicians
New York Chapter 2, American Academy of Pediatrics
New York Chapter 3, American Academy of Pediatrics
Northwell Center for Gun Violence Prevention
Northwell Health
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Where Do We Go From Here Inc

North Carolina

Batish Family Medicine
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, North Carolina Chapter
NC Pediatric Society
North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence

North Dakota

ND Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North Dakota Public Health Association

Ohio

American College of Emergency Physicians, Ohio Chapter
Begun Center for Violence Prevention, Research and Education, Case Western Reserve University
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Ohio Geriatrics Society
Ohio School Psychologists Association
The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Oregon

Micronesian Islander Community
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners - Oregon Chapter
Oregon Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Oregon Geriatrics Society
Oregon Pediatric Society

Pennsylvania

Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania (ASPP)
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Youth Empowerment for Advancement Hangout (YEAH)

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families

South Carolina

South Carolina Association of School Psychologists
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
South Carolina College of Emergency Physicians

South Dakota

South Dakota Public Health Association

Tennessee

Life Paths Research Center
Safe and Free Tennessee

Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee College of Emergency Physicians
Tennessee Geriatrics Society
Tennessee Public Health Association

Texas

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners - Austin, Texas Chapter
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, South Texas Alamo Chapter
Texas Doctors for Social Responsibility
Texas Geriatrics Society, Inc.
Texas Neurological Society
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility

Utah

Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Utah Public Health Association

Vermont

Vermont Public Health Association

Virginia

Carilion Children's
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine
VCU Health
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Washington

Foundation for Healthy Generations
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Washington State Chapter
Public Health-Seattle & King County
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Washington State Public Health Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia College of Emergency Physicians

Wisconsin

Children's Wisconsin

NAMI Northwoods

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Wisconsin Chapter

WAVE Educational Fund

Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons

Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Wisconsin Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, Healthcare Committee

Wisconsin Public Health Association

Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Wyoming Public Health Association