

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 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. 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. <sup>i,ii</sup>

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.<sup>iii,iv,v</sup> 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.<sup>vi</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. 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.<sup>vii</sup> 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 public 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  
Kohnling, Inc.  
WeKconnect, 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

---

<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2023, and from provisional data for years 2024 and later, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed February 2026. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/saved/D176/D428F775>.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid. Available at: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/saved/D176/D469F870>.

<sup>iii</sup> National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. "NIH awards grants for firearm injury and mortality prevention research." September 30, 2020. Available at: <https://obssr.od.nih.gov/nih-awards-grants-for-firearm-injury-and-mortality-prevention-research/>.

<sup>iv</sup> National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. "NIH awards 10 grants addressing firearm violence prevention." September 17, 2021. Available at: <https://obssr.od.nih.gov/news-and-events/news/director-voice/nih-awards-10-grants-addressing-firearm-violence-prevention>.

<sup>v</sup> National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. "NIH Research to Prevent Firearm Injury and Mortality." September 15, 2022. Available at: <https://obssr.od.nih.gov/news-and-events/news/nih-research-prevent-firearm-injury-and-mortality>.

<sup>vi</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Funded Research Summaries." Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/php/research-summaries/index.html>.

<sup>vii</sup> Health Management Associates. "Cost Estimate of Federal Funding for Gun Violence Research and Data Infrastructure." Report prepared for Arnold Ventures and the Joyce Foundations. Published July 13, 2021. Available at: <https://assets.joycefdn.org/content/uploads/CostEstimateofFederalFundingforGunViolenceResearch.pdf>.