

April 19, 2023

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

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

The Honorable Kay Granger  
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, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the undersigned 408 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 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 rigorous 2021 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>

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 2021, the most recent year for which we have data, firearm-related injuries led to 47,286 total fatalities.<sup>2</sup> The overall U.S. firearm homicide and firearm suicide rates in 2021 were the highest documented since 1993 and 1990, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

We need a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to reducing firearm-related suicides, violent crime, and accidental shootings. Rigorous prevention research that can accurately quantify and describe the roots of gun violence, inform strategies for responsible gun owners to avoid preventable injuries and deaths, and identify non-partisan opportunities for reducing the related morbidity and mortality is the foundation of such an approach.

We would like to thank Congress for its continued support for this public health research in FY23, providing \$12.5 million each to the CDC and NIH for the fourth consecutive fiscal year, and for the new \$1 million in funding for the NIJ. 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 22 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>4</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, how to

improve efforts to reduce urban firearm injuries, and the relationship between firearm access and opioid-related harm on firearm suicide risk, 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>5,6,7</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 quality 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, \$25 million for the NIH, and \$1 million for the NIJ for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research as part of FY 2024 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, NIH, and NIJ 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  
AFT Nurses and Health Professionals  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Public Health Physicians  
American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS)  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Surgeons  
American Educational Research Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
American Nurses Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pediatric Surgical Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Counselor Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons  
American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Sociological Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD)  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Program Directors in Radiology  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Child Injury Prevention Alliance  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's Hospital Association  
Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health  
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  
Education Development Center  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality  
HealthConnect One  
Healthy Teen Network  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Jewish Women International  
Kids and Car Safety  
MomsRising  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)  
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 Social Workers  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Organization for Women  
National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS)  
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives  
National PTA  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Safety Council  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

North American Primary Care Research Group  
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  
Save the Children  
Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic, Inc. (SAFE)  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)  
Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics  
Society for Pediatric Anesthesia  
Society for Pediatric Radiology  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeons  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Stop Abuse Campaign  
The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
The Triological Society  
Trinity Health  
Trust for America's Health  
Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community  
ValorUS®  
YMCA of the USA  
Youth Villages  
Zero Suicide Institute

## **State and Local Organizations:**

### **Alabama**

Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Baobab Birth Collective  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Alabama Chapter  
VOICES for Alabama's Children

### **Alaska**

Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

### **Arizona**

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

### **Arkansas**

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

### **California**

American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 1  
American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 2  
American Academy of Pediatrics California Chapter 3  
American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians  
California Neurology Society  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – San Diego Chapter  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – San Francisco/Bay Area Chapter  
Southern California Public Health Association  
The California Alliance of Academics and Communities for Public Health Equity  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Los Angeles

### **Colorado**

American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
NAMI Arapahoe/Douglas Counties  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Colorado/Rocky Mountain Chapter  
The Kempe Foundation

### **Connecticut**

Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

**Delaware**

Delaware Academy of Medicine and the Delaware Public Health Association  
Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**District of Columbia**

DC Action / DC Action for Children  
D.C. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
District of Columbia Public Health Association  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Washington, DC Chapter  
Trinity Washington University

**Florida**

Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics  
Florida College of Emergency Physicians  
Florida Society of Neurology  
Lee County Chapter of NOW  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Florida Gulf Coast Chapter  
Pasco County National Organization for Women, Inc.

**Georgia**

Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Georgia Neurological Society  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Georgia Chapter

**Hawaii**

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter  
Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawaii Public Health Association

**Idaho**

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Idaho College of Emergency Medicine  
Idaho Public Health Association

**Illinois**

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago  
Children's Home & Aid  
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians  
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Illinois State Neurological Society  
Legal Council for Health Justice  
NAMI Kane-South, DeKalb, and Kendall Counties  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Illinois Chapter  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois  
Will County NOW

**Indiana**

Covering Kids & Families of Indiana  
Indiana Association of School Nurses  
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Indiana Public Health Association  
Marion County Commission on Youth  
Marion County Youth Violence Prevention Coalition  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Indiana Chapter

**Iowa**

Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Kansas**

Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City  
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**Kentucky**

Brain Injury Association of America - Kentucky Chapter  
Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

**Louisiana**

Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
VIA LINK and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL)  
Violence Prevention Institute at Tulane University

**Maine**

Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maine Children's Alliance  
Maine Children's Trust  
Maine Neurological Society  
Maine Public Health Association

**Maryland**

Johns Hopkins University & Medicine  
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maryland Psychiatric Society  
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.  
Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse  
NAMI Howard County, Maryland  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Maryland Chesapeake Chapter  
The Family Tree

**Massachusetts**

Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians  
Massachusetts Neurologic Association  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
NAMI Central Middlesex Massachusetts  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Massachusetts Chapter

**Michigan**

Brain Injury Association of Michigan  
Michigan Chapter, 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  
University of Michigan

**Minnesota**

Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Minnesota Chapter

**Mississippi**

Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
NAMI Vicksburg, Mississippi

**Missouri**

Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Missouri KidsFirst  
Missouri Public Health Association  
NAMI St. Louis  
National Organization for Women, Columbia Area  
National Organization for Women, Missouri

**Montana**

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Nebraska**

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Midwest Chapter  
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Nebraska Neurological Society

**Nevada**

Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Nevada Public Health Association  
Nevada Public Health Institute

**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians  
New Hampshire American College of Physicians  
New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
New Hampshire Psychiatric Society

**New Jersey**

Bellevue Pediatrics  
NAMI Essex/Passaic NJ  
NAMI New Jersey  
New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
New Jersey Department of Children and Families - Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCF-DCPP)  
New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center – Rutgers School of Public Health  
New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute  
New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
New Jersey Society for Public Health Education (NJSOPHE)  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey

**New Mexico**

NAMI New Mexico  
New Mexico Pediatric Society  
Santa Fe NOW

**New York**

American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 1  
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 2  
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 3  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, New York State Chapter  
Cohen Children's Medical Center/Northwell  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Gitenstein Institute for Health Law and Policy at Hofstra Law  
Hofstra University  
NAMI Buffalo & Western New York  
NAMI Capital Region NY  
NAMI Huntington, New York  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – E-Chapter  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Greater New York Chapter  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Long Island Chapter  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – New York Western Chapter  
New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
New York State Neurological Society

New York State Public Health Association  
Prevent Child Abuse New York  
Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence at Columbia University

### **North Carolina**

Atrium Health – Charlotte  
Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital - Hemby Pediatric Trauma Program  
Duke Health  
NAMI Cabarrus  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – North Carolina Chapter  
North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians  
North Carolina Pediatric Society  
North Carolina Public Health Association  
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina  
Safe Kids Cleveland County

### **North Dakota**

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

### **Ohio**

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

### **Oklahoma**

NAMI Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Oklahoma Public Health Association

### **Oregon**

NAMI Yamhill County  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Oregon Chapter  
Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians  
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials  
Oregon Health and Science University  
Oregon Health and Science University - Portland State University Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Advisory Committee  
Oregon Pediatric Society  
Oregon Public Health Association  
Pediatric & Young Adult Oncology  
Portland State University  
University of Oregon

**Pennsylvania**

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
NAMI Centre County PA  
NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Delaware Valley Chapter  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Three Rivers Chapter  
Penn Injury Science Center, University of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
University of Pennsylvania

**Puerto Rico**

Puerto Rico Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics

**Rhode Island**

Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Rhode Island Public Health Association

**South Carolina**

Institute for Child Success  
NAMI South Carolina  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – South Carolina Chapter  
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

**South Dakota**

South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Tennessee**

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Blues City Chapter  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Music City Chapter  
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Tennessee Public Health Association

**Texas**

NAMI Guadalupe County  
NAMI Texas  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – South Texas Alamo Chapter  
Texas Neurological Society  
Texas Pediatric Society

**Utah**

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter  
Utah Public Health Association  
Voices for Utah Children

**Vermont**

American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter  
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont  
Vermont Public Health Association

**Virginia**

Families Forward Virginia  
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Virginia Commonwealth University and VCU Health System  
Virginia Public Health Association

**Washington**

Children's Alliance (Washington)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Washington State Chapter  
Public Health-Seattle & King County  
University of Washington  
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Washington State Public Health Association

**West Virginia**

West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
West Virginia College of Emergency Physicians  
West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services

**Wisconsin**

Children's Wisconsin  
NAMI Chippewa Valley  
NAMI Northwoods  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – Wisconsin State Chapter  
Supporting Families Together Association  
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons  
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians  
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Wisconsin Neurological Society  
Wisconsin Psychiatric Association  
Wisconsin Public Health Association

**Wyoming**

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

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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.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas R. Simon, et al. “*Notes from the Field: Increases in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates – United States, 2020-2021.*” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7140a4>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</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>.

<sup>5</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>6</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>7</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>.