



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*For science. For action. For health.*

August 1, 2018

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Attorney General Sessions:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write to express our strong objection to the recent decision by the United States to settle a case that will allow for the publishing of blueprints for printing 3D guns on the internet, making them accessible to the public. We strongly urge you to immediately reverse this decision and restore the prohibition of publishing this dangerous information online.

We are deeply concerned about the ability to trace and detect these weapons should they be used in a crime. Additionally, the availability of instructions to build 3D-printed guns would allow individuals who are legally prohibited from possessing firearms under state and federal laws to print deadly plastic guns on commercially available 3D printers.

Gun violence is a serious public health epidemic in the United States, resulting in more than 38,000 deaths in 2016. In the wake of the many recent devastating mass shootings that have occurred across the country as well as the ongoing occurrence of everyday gun violence throughout the nation, the U.S. government should be focusing its efforts on ending this epidemic.

We strongly urge you to immediately withdraw this settlement and to prohibit the publishing of this information on the internet. Instead, we encourage the administration to work with Congress to invest in research to reduce gun violence and to enact commonsense solutions that keep these and other deadly weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director