June 19, 2016

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The 58 undersigned national public health, medical, and research organizations write to urge you to vote yes on S.Amdt. 4750 and S.Amdt. 4720 to the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, S. 2837/H.R. 2578. S.Amdt. 4750, offered by Senator Murphy, and S.Amdt. 4720, offered by Senator Feinstein, represent critical steps to protect the public health.

Following the massacre of 49 individuals in Orlando, Florida last weekend, we are presented with yet another opportunity to act to address the scourge of gun violence. There were over 33,000 firearm-related deaths in 2013, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). S.Amdt. 4750 would expand background checks on all gun purchases, and S.Amdt. 4720 would make it more difficult for known or suspected terrorists to purchase firearms. These proposals would help to reduce access to guns, and would help to save countless lives.

Our groups have been advocating for gun violence prevention strategies for decades. In addition to passing these two amendments, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you in the future to support funding for gun violence prevention research and public health surveillance, including $10 million to support gun violence prevention research at the CDC.

We urge you to vote yes on the Murphy and Feinstein amendments to the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you on these and other measures to reduce gun violence in our country.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women’s Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Hematology