June 3, 2024

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

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) 2025, the undersigned <u>434</u> 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 2024 and encourage Congress to sustain and build on this funding in FY 2025. 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.¹

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 2022, the most recent year for which we have data, firearm-related injuries led to 48,117 total fatalities.² While the homicide rate declined slightly from a record high in 2021, it remains unacceptably high, and the suicide rate continued to rise in 2022.³

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 FY24, providing \$12.5 million each to the CDC and NIH for the fifth consecutive fiscal year. 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 34 awards for two- and three-year projects to improve scientific understanding of firearm-

related violence and to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of prevention strategies. 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 in rural areas to promote firearm safety, 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. And this research is already yielding valuable results, including insights into how children and teens experience gun violence in big cities and its impacts on their health, the needs of young people involved with the juvenile justice system who are at particularly high risk of experiencing firearm violence, and crisis hotline data to better understand how mass shootings impact young people. The NIH is funding research on the determinants of firearm injury, the identification of those at risk, and the evaluation of innovative interventions. ^{6,7,8}

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 2025 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

Access Ready Inc.

Advocate Heath Midwest Region

AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

ALS Association

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

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 (AAPM&R)

American Anthropological Association

American Art Therapy Association

American Association for Emergency Psychiatry (AAEP)

American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS)

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

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 Geriatrics Society

American Medical Association

American Medical Women's Association

American Mental Health Counselors Association

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 Psychological Association Services

American Public Health Association

American School Counselor Association

American Society for Clinical Pathology

American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons

American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology

American Sociological Association

American Thoracic Society

American Trauma 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 Chairs of Departments of Physiology

Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Pathology Chairs

Association of Population Centers

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, Case Western Reserve

University

Big Cities Health Coalition

Camp Fire National

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)

Child Injury Prevention Alliance

Child Neurology Foundation

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Advocacy Institute

Children's Health Fund

Children's Hospital Association

Columbia University Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Council of Pediatric Subspecialties

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Council on Social Work Education

Doctors for America

Education Development Center

Family Centered Treatment Foundation

Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

First Focus Campaign for Children

Futures Without Violence

Ginger Lee Global Health Consulting Group

GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality

HealthConnect One

Health Resources in Action

Healthy Teen Network

Institute for Child Success

International Association of Forensic Nurses

Jewish Women International

Kids and Car Safety

Kula Empowered

Latino Commission on AIDS, Inc.

MomsRising

NAPCRG

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Medical Examiners

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials

National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Hispanic Medical Association

National League for Nursing

National Network of Public Health Institutes

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

National Organization for Women

National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives

National PTA

National Safety Council

North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

OnCall4Kids

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Peace Through Action USA

Pediatric & Young Adult Oncology

Pediatric Endocrine Society

Pediatric Policy Council

Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health

Population Association of America

Prevention Institute

Primary Care Development Corporation

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 Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP)

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 Women's Health Research

Society of Critical Care Medicine

Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Hospital Medicine

Society of Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeons

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

Society of University Surgeons

Stop Abuse Campaign

Survivor Justice Action

The American Psychoanalytic Association

The Consortium of Social Science Associations

The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

The Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America

The Redwoods Group Foundation

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

The Triological Society

Trinity Health

Trust for America's Health

University of Michigan

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)

VALOR

YMCA of the USA

Zero Suicide Institute

ZERO TO THREE

State and Local Organizations:

Alabama

Alabama Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics

Alabama Chapter- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

VOICES for Alabama's Children

YMCA of Greater Birmingham

Alaska

Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Arizona

Arizona Association of School Psychologists Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Arizona Public Health Association Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

Arkansas

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Arkansas Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

California

A Greater Hope

AAPI Equity Alliance

African American Wellness Center for Children & Families

American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 1

American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3

CA Black Health Network

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Neurology Society

East Bay Asian Youth Center

John Burton Advocates For Youth

Los Angeles, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Orange County, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Sacramento, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners San Diego, California Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners UCLA

University of California System University of California, Davis

Colorado

American Academy of Pediatrics - Colorado Chapter Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Connecticut

Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Connecticut Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

Delaware

Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association Delaware Association of School Psychologists (DASP) Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

District of Columbia

American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter

DC Action

The District of Columbia Public Health Association

Washington, DC Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Florida

FL National Organization for Women

Florida Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.

Florida College of Emergency Physicians

Florida Public Health Association

Greater Orlando National Organization for Women

Lee County Chapter of NOW

Pasco County National Org for Women

Georgia

Georgia Association of School Psychologists

Georgia Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics

Georgia Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Georgia NOW

Valley Healthcare System Inc.

Hawaii

Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawaii ACEP

Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Hawaii Neurological Society

Hawaii Public Health Association

Idaho

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Illinois

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Brightpoint

Illinois Academy of Family Physicians

Illinois Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Illinois National Organization for Women

Illinois Public Health Association

Illinois School Psychologists Association (ISPA)

Illinois State Medical Society

Illinois State Neurological Society

Legal Council for Health Justice

Will County NOW

Indiana

Covering Kids & Families of Indiana

Indiana Association of School Nurses

Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Indiana Neurological Society

Indiana Public Health Association

Marion County Youth Violence Prevention Coalition

MCCOY (Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.)

Iowa

Iowa ACEP Chapter

Iowa Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Iowa Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Kansas

Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky

Brain Injury Association of America - Kentucky Chapter

Kentucky Chapter of the AAP

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

Louisiana

Louisiana Public Health Association

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

VIA LINK/Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (PCAL)

Violence Prevention Institute at Tulane University

Maine

Maine AAP

Maine Children's Trust

Maine Neurological Society

Maine Providers for Gun Safety

Maine Public Health Association

Maryland

Johns Hopkins University & Medicine

Maryland ACEP Chapter

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP)

Maryland Chapter, National Organization for Women

Maryland Chesapeake Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

NAMI Howard County, MD

The Family Tree

The Maryland Psychiatric Society

The Parents' Place of MD

University of Maryland, College Park

Massachusetts

Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA)

Disability Law Center (MA)

Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians

Massachusetts School Psychologists Association

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

YMCA of Greater Boston

Michigan

Brain Injury Association of Michigan

Michigan Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Michigan Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Michigan College of Emergency Physicians

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health

Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence

The Arc Michigan

Minnesota

Minnesota Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Minnesota Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Minnesota Public Health Association

Mississippi

NAMI Vicksburg, MS

Missouri

Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Missouri Network Against Child Abuse

Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA)

NAMI St. Louis

National Organization for Women, Columbia Area

National Organization for Women, Missouri

Montana

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Nebraska

Nebraska Chapter AAP

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Nebraska Neurological Society

Public Health Association of Nebraska

Nevada

Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Nevada Public Health Association

New Hampshire

NHAAP

New Jersey

Family Voices NJ

NAMI Essex/Passaic

New Jersey ACEP

New Jersey Association of School Psychologists

New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center

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 Chapter, Inc.

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

New Mexico

NAMI New Mexico

New Mexico Association of School Psychologists

New Mexico Pediatric Society, the New Mexico Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Santa Fe National Organization for Women

New York

Cohen Children's Medical Center/Northwell

Columbia University Irving Medical Center

E-Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Gitenstein Institute for Health Law and Policy

Greater New York State Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Long Island, New York Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

NAMI Buffalo & Western New York

New York State American Academy of Pediatrics

New York State Neurological Society

New York State Public Health Association

Northwell Health Center for Gun Violence Prevention

NYS AAP - Chapter 2

NYS AAP - Chapter 3

Pediatric Emergency Care Special Interest Group - National Association of Pediatric Nurse

Practitioners

Prevent Child Abuse New York

Where Do We Go From Here Inc

North Carolina

Atrium Health-Levine Children's Hospital

Duke Health

NAMI Cabarrus

NC College of Emergency Physicians

NC Pediatric Society

NC Public Health Association

NCSPA

North Carolina Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Positive Childhood Alliance NC

North Dakota

North Dakota Chapter of the AAP

Ohio

American College of Emergency Physicians, Ohio Chapter

Cleveland Peacemakers Inc

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio School Psychologists Association

Oklahoma

NAMI Oklahoma

Oklahoma Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Oregon

Micronesian Islander Community

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Yamhill County

Oregon ACEP

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University Gun Violence as a Public Health

Issue Initiative

Oregon Pediatric Society

Oregon Public Health Association

Oregon School Psychologists Association

Portland State University

University of Oregon

Pennsylvania

Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Penn Injury Science Center, University of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Public Health Association

Pennsylvania Del Valley Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico ACEP Chapter

Rhode Island

American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter Rhode Island Neurological Society The Rhode Island Public Health Association

South Carolina

NAMI South Carolina SCAAP South Carolina Association of School Psychologists

South Dakota

South Dakota Chapter - AAP South Dakota Public Health Association (SDPHA)

Tennessee

Family Voices of Tennessee Life Paths Research Center Tennessee ACEP Chapter Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Tennessee Public Health Association Youth Villages

Texas

Houston, Texas Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners South Texas Alamo Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Texas Neurological Society Texas Pediatric Society

Utah

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter Prevent Child Abuse Utah Utah Association of School Psychologists Utah Chapter - National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Utah Public Health Association

Vermont

AAP Vermont Chapter Vermont ACEP Chapter Vermont Public Health Association

Virginia

Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Virginia Commonwealth University

Washington

Children's Alliance

Public Health - Seattle and King County

Seattle Chapter, National Organization for Women

South Sound Chapter National Organization of Women

University of Washington

Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Washington State Association of School Psychologists (WSASP)

Washington State Neurological Society

Washington State Public Health Association

West Virginia

West Virginia Chapter, AAP

West Virginia College of Emergency Physicians

Wisconsin

Children's Wisconsin

NAMI Northwoods

Supporting Families Together Association

Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (WAOPS)

Wisconsin Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians

Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Wisconsin Neurological Society

Wisconsin Psychiatric Association

Wisconsin Public Health Association

Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Johns Hopkins – Bloomberg School of Public Health. "CDC Provisional Data: Gun Suicides Reach All-time High in 2022, Gun Homicides Down Slightly from 2021." July 27, 2023. Available at: https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2023/cdc-provisional-data-gun-suicides-reach-all-time-high-in-2022-gun-homicides-down-slightly-from-2021.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Summary of Initial Findings from CDC-Funded Firearm Injury Prevention Research." Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/firearm-research-findings.html.

 $\underline{grants\text{-}for\text{-}firearm\text{-}injury\text{-}and\text{-}mortality\text{-}prevention\text{-}research/}.$

⁶ 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://obsr.od.nih.gov/nih-awards-

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.