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.⁴ 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.⁵ 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 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: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/funded-research.html</u>..

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

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: <u>https://obssr.od.nih.gov/news-and-events/news/nih-research-prevent-firearm-injury-and-mortality</u>.

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: <u>https://obssr.od.nih.gov/nih-awards-grants-for-firearm-injury-and-mortality-prevention-research/</u>.

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: <u>https://obssr.od.nih.gov/news-and-events/news/director-voice/nih-awards-10-grants-addressing-firearm-violence-prevention</u>.