

Dec. 6, 2017

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy
United States Representative
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Murphy,

On behalf of National PTA and our nearly 4 million PTA members, we applaud you for introducing the Gun Violence Research Act (H.R. 1478). As the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States with congresses in all 50 states, Washington, DC, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Europe, National PTA is pleased to endorse this critical piece of legislation to better protect our nation's students and families from gun violence.

For over 120 years, National PTA has been a strong advocate on issues impacting children and families and fully supports federal efforts to protect children and youth from gun violence. Our association has a long history of supporting and advocating for policies in the areas of gun safety, violence prevention, juvenile justice, mental health and students' overall well-being. During our 2017 Convention in Las Vegas, National PTA delegates adopted an amendment to our resolution on the [Sale, Resale and Destruction of Firearms](#) that calls for our association and constituent associations to seek and support legislation and appropriations to research the causes and effects of gun violence.

To that end, National PTA is pleased to join you in working to lift restrictions on gun violence research at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the Brady Center¹, 17,012 American children and teens are shot in murders, assaults, suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, or by police intervention every year on average. National PTA is committed to stopping gun violence through common-sense and responsible firearm policies and by raising public awareness of firearm safety and gun violence prevention strategies. However, to achieve this goal and address this epidemic gripping our nation, we need to first understand the causal relationships and the effects that gun violence has on our communities.

Thank you for efforts to find solutions to eliminate gun violence from our communities. National PTA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you to make every child's potential a reality. Please do not hesitate to contact Jacki Ball, Director of Government Affairs, at jball@PTA.org or

¹ The Brady Center averaged the most recent five years of complete data from death certificates (2011-2015) and estimates of emergency room admissions (2010-2014) available via CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/.

(703) 518-1243 to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



James L. Accomando
President
National PTA



Nathan R. Monell, CAE
Executive Director
National PTA