

March 26, 2019

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer,

The epidemic of gun violence is one of the leading causes of premature death in the United States. Each day, more than 250 people are injured due to a firearm, and of that group, more than 96 people are killed. Gun violence affects not only the individuals who are physically wounded by a bullet, but the effects cascade outward and harm the economic, educational and health related outcomes of friends, families and whole communities. Far too many communities have been impacted by horrific acts of mass violence that grip the nation's attention, while untold numbers of neighborhoods quietly suffer a daily toll of gun violence that never makes national headlines.

This violence is unacceptable. And it is not inevitable. Gun violence poses a significant threat to the public's health and safety and now is the time to act to address it. As advocates working to prevent gun violence, we **urge Congress to appropriate 50 million dollars in the FY 2020 budget specifically for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and National Institutes of Health to fund gun violence research.**

It's up to Congress to fund lifesaving research into America's gun violence problem. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has acknowledged the CDC is not restricted from conducting this research, and CDC Director Robert Redfield has said his agency is prepared to do this research if it receives Congressional funding. It's Congress's responsibility to the American people to allocate this money.

Gun violence research cannot wait. Gun violence research is severely underfunded and is estimated to receive less than 2% of the funding needed to adequately address the scope of the issue. Because of the insufficient amount of federally-funded research over the past 20 years, there is a severe deficit of information relating to the causes of gun violence and most effective prevention methods. Our premier institutions of public health-- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-- have made significant progress in researching effective public health approaches to reducing death and injury from deadly automobile accidents, infectious diseases, food contamination and other seemingly intractable health challenges. Research can do the same for gun violence. It must - our lives depend on it.

In 2017, gun deaths reached a 40-year high. Gun violence is a public health crisis that devastates our communities every day. Congress should act quickly appropriate this funding and take a critical first step in addressing the scourge of gun violence and making our children, communities and country safer.

Sincerely,

Action NC
Action Together - Long Island
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US
Adrian Dominican Sisters
Advocates for Youth
African American Ministers In Action

African Methodist Episcopal Church - Social Action Commission
Alliance for Gun Responsibility
Alliance of Baptists
American Academy of Pediatrics - NY Chapter 2
American Dance Therapy Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
Amnesty International USA
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North American - Bautistas Por La Paz
Bishops United Against Gun Violence
Brady: United Against Gun Violence
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Denver
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - District of Columbia
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Greater Rochester
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Long Beach
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Long Island
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Michigan
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Middlesex County
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Montgomery County
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - North/Central Florida
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Orange County
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Portland
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - San Diego
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - San Fernando Valley
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - San Francisco
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Sarasota
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Seattle
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Sussex County
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Twin Cities
Brady: United Against Gun Violence - Westchester
CeaseFire Pennsylvania
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Center for American Progress
Chicago Area Families for Adoption - Kaleidoscope Culture Camp
Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
College of Global Public Health at New York University
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
Community Justice Action Fund
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Council of Administrators of Special Education
CT Against Gun Violence
CureViolence
DC Area Interfaith GVP Network
Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Doctors for America
Dominican Sisters
Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids
East End Action Network
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative
EDGE Consulting Partners

Equality - California
Equality - North Carolina
Fellowship of Reconciliation
March For Our Lives - New Mexico
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, US Area
Franciscans - TOR, JPIC Committee
Franciscans for Justice
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Generation Progress
Georgia Alliance for Social Justice
Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
God Before Guns
Gun Violence Prevention Action Committee - Illinois
Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah
Gun Violence Prevention Education Center
Gun Violence Prevention PAC - Illinois
Guns Down America
Gunsense Vermont
GunSenseUs
Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation
Human Rights Campaign
Huntington Young Democrats
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Indivisible - Ashville
Indivisible - California 29
Indivisible - Connecticut 4
Indivisible - Colorado 52 (Change Begins With ME)
Indivisible - Dexter
Indivisible - Heartland Resistance Coalition
Indivisible - Illinois 12 Bluecoats
Indivisible - Northern Nevada
Indivisible - NYCD16
Indivisible - Roswell West
Indivisible - San Francisco
Indivisible - Sausalito
Indivisible - South Suburban Chicago
Indivisible - Stanislaus
Indivisible - Ventura
Indivisible - West Suburban Action League
Indivisible Acton
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
Jewish Women International
Joint Action Committee
Jr Newtown Action Alliance
Justiceforcliff Encouragement project
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
League of Women Voters of Florida
Long Island Inclusive Communities Against Hate
Long Islanders for Gun Safety
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
March For Our Lives
March For Our Lives - Arizona
March For Our Lives - Aurora
March For Our Lives - Birmingham

March For Our Lives - Boston
March For Our Lives - California
March For Our Lives - Carroll County
March For Our Lives - Cincinnati
March For Our Lives - Dickinson College Chapter
March For Our Lives - District of Columbia
March For Our Lives - Durham-Chapel Hill
March For Our Lives - Fort Thomas
March For Our Lives - Greensboro
March For Our Lives - Iowa
March For Our Lives - Lake County
March For Our Lives - Laramie High School Chapter
March For Our Lives - MASH
March For Our Lives - Philadelphia
March For Our Lives - Terre Haute
March For Our Lives - University of Georgia
March For Our Lives - Utah
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence
MedStar Washington Hospital Center Department of Trauma Administration
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mill Valley Community Action Network
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
MomsRising
Movement Advancement Project
National Association of School Psychologists
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Equality Action Team
National Network for Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
National Parent Teacher Association
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
Newtown Action Alliance
No Guns In Our Schools - Long Island
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Northwest Suburbs Organizing for Action
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
Ohio Province Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Office Justice Peace Care of Creation
Ohio Students for Gun Legislation
One Pulse for America
Operation Respect
Pax Christi- Washington, DC and Baltimore
People For the American Way
Presentation Sisters, San Francisco, CA
Pride Fund to End Gun Violence
Project IRENE
Project Longevity
Protect Minnesota
Psychiatrists for Gun Violence Prevention
Rabbinical Assembly
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment
Safe Campus Colorado

SAFE: Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic
San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention
Sandy Hook Promise
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Show Up Long Island
Silver State Equality
Sinsinawa Dominican Peace and Justice Office
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, EW Unit
Sisters of Saint Francis of the Neumann communities
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary U.S.-Ontario Province
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Presentation
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
Society of Helpers
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Stop Handgun Violence
Suffolk Progressives
SURJ - Marin
Team ENOUGH New York
Team ENOUGH Tampa
The Campaign to Keep Guns off Campus
The Maine Gun Safety Coalition
The Nonviolence Institute
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
This Is Our Lane
Together We Will - Long Island
Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic - UCSF
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Violence Policy Center
Washington National Cathedral
Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund
West Indivisible Suburban Engagement
Whitman-Walker Health
Woman's National Democratic Club
Women's March
Women's March Youth Empower
Youth Over Guns