



Ask Congress to approve the funding and support we need to make evidence-based policies to prevent gun violence a reality.

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To: The Members of Congress

Three of the deadliest shootings in modern US history have happened in the last six months. These are but three of hundreds of recent mass shootings that have torn apart families and communities. These acts of violence now happen with such frightening regularity that in some cases they pass almost without recognition, not even registering in the public conscience long enough for us to know the names of the lives lost and communities shattered.

We unite today as a diverse, nonpartisan, and interdisciplinary group of organizations and advocates to call for Congress to provide dedicated federal funding for research into gun violence. **The current restriction on federal funding for gun violence research limits our understanding of this epidemic and prevents us from enacting evidence-based policies that will protect our lives, our families, and our communities.** We also ask for Congress to remove restrictions preventing federal agencies from sharing information that could help them better understand - and ultimately prevent - injuries and loss of life.

Gun violence is a public health crisis that, on average, takes the lives of [100 people](#) and [injures hundreds more](#) in the United States every day. In order to address gun violence as the public health issue that it truly is, both the public and our elected officials who serve us need to understand what works to prevent gun violence, and this can not be accomplished without credible, scientific research.

Research into the causes and prevention of violence is not a partisan issue. Yet for more than two decades, Congress has failed to provide dedicated funding for gun violence research, in part because of the [Dickey Amendment](#), a law that states that "None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be used to advocate or promote gun control." Although the Dickey Amendment does not explicitly prevent research on gun violence, it is widely acknowledged that absent clearer guidance from Congress it has had a devastating effect on violence prevention research at the CDC. As advocates for science, we demand policies based on scientific evidence, and we ask that Congress immediately repeal the Dickey Amendment and provide dedicated funding for research into the causes and prevention of gun violence.

Without this research, we cannot identify risk and protective factors, nor can we develop prevention strategies. Gun violence affects all communities, but disproportionately affects [marginalized communities](#), who will continue to suffer the greatest consequences of our inaction. The lack of publicly funded research on gun violence has left us without evidence to guide us in responding to an epidemic that kills tens of thousands of people each year and adversely impacts millions more.

We further ask that the federal government repeal the [Tiahrt Amendment](#), a 2003 provision prohibiting the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives from releasing information about its firearms database to the CDC and the National Institutes of Health. Researchers need systematic data collection and a national database dedicated to storing and collecting data on gun sales and registrations. This information must be coupled with a database on firearms injuries and deaths nationwide to monitor and better understand the scope of this national public health problem. To help accomplish this goal, we ask Congress to provide funding for the CDC [National Violent Death Reporting System](#) to support the participation of all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia in reporting gun violence statistics to the national database; currently, [42 states](#) receive funding. In order to prevent gun violence, we must understand how it affects adults and children in all states, without exception.

Research and policy development on firearm-related injuries and deaths warrant the same level of attention, and dedicated federal and state funding and support, as are currently directed to public health challenges presented by the opioid epidemic, cigarette smoking, and HIV/AIDS. Regardless of political party, every member of Congress must play a role in supporting the research we need to protect our communities and enact evidence-based policy to combat gun violence.

We urge you to honor victims, survivors, and their loved ones by writing and implementing evidence-based policies to protect our communities from gun violence. We stand together in asking Congress for the support and funding needed to make these policies a reality.

Signed,

American Academy of Nursing
 American Anthropological Association
 American Association of Geographers
 American Association of University Professors
 American Educational Research Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Sociological Association
 American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
 Clergy Letter Project
 Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
 Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
 Council on Social Work Education
 Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
 Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work
 Hindu American Foundation
 Macaulay Honors College, CUNY

March for Science: Columbus
 March for Science: Mobile
 March for Science: Pittsburg
 National Association of Biology Teachers
 National Council on Family Relations
 National Medical Association
 National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
 National Science Teachers Association
 Pantsuit Nation
 Physician Women For Democratic Principles
 Physician Moms Group
 Science Debate
 Society for Prevention Research
 Unitarian Universalist Association
 500 Women Scientists
 Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
 Society for Research in Child Development
 School Social Work Association of America
 National Association of Social Workers
 American Dance Therapy Association
 American Council for School Social Work
 Eastern Sociological Society
 Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice
 Learning Disabilities Association of America
 American College of Preventive Medicine
 AcademyHealth
 Population Association of America
 Association of Population Centers
 American Psychological Association
 Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
 Association of American Universities
 Progressive Doctors
 National Physicians Alliance
 League of Women Voters of the United States
 Clinician Action Network
 National Association of County and City Health Officials
 Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
 American Statistical Association
 Society for Public Health Education
 American Council for School Social Work
 NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing
 American Council on Education
 National Juvenile Justice Network
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 Physicians for a National Health Program - New York Metro Chapter

To add your organization to this list, email letter@marchforscience.com

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The above letter was co-written by the March for Science and the [American Psychological Association](#).

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