



June 12, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor
& Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: National Physicians Alliance Supports Legislation to Fund Gun Violence Prevention Research

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

On behalf of the National Physicians Alliance, an organization representing physicians across medical specialties, I am writing to express strong support for legislation introduced by Senator Markey and Representative Malone, S. 2373/H.R. 4707, that would authorize the funding of \$10 million each year from FY15 through FY20 for gun violence prevention and gun safety research conducted or supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gun violence in America is a serious public health issue—indeed it is a public health crisis.¹ We were very heartened to see bipartisan support for the Thompson Amendment this week to increase funding for states to submit additional records of prohibited firearm purchasers to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Checks System (NICS). Similarly, we need to critical invest in rigorous studies that will provide additional evidence-based approaches to reducing gun violence. It is in our national self-interest to support robust research in this area. This is a budget commitment worth making. CDC research will help us identify practical solutions that studies have proven to be life saving. In policy no less than in medicine, we need sound research to inform sound practice. Ensuring this work is a necessary and concrete step toward reducing the toll of gun violence in our country. We therefore urge your support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Scott", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Scott, MD
NPA President

¹ http://npalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Gun_Safety_Public_Health_Joint_Report-092513.pdf