

United States Senate

June 23, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt,

We write to request the inclusion of \$50 million in the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct scientific research on the causes and prevention of gun violence in the United States.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, more than 43,000 Americans lost their lives to gun violence in 2020 as firearms sales surged during the pandemic. This marked the deadliest year for gun violence in the last 20 years. It has become increasingly clear that gun violence in America is going to continue unabated until Congress takes meaningful action. Unfortunately, policymakers, healthcare practitioners, and researchers lack comprehensive, scientific information about the causes and characteristics of gun violence, which could help inform the development of strategies to prevent future tragedies.

We were pleased that Congress included \$50 million for gun violence research in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Pub.L. 116-260). This appropriation will allow researchers to revive a dormant field of study. Reducing gun violence must continue to be a public health priority. Through science and study, the CDC and NIH are helping to lead us out of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the right funding, research at the CDC and NIH can also help hasten an end to the epidemic of gun violence in the United States. Accordingly, we must continue to support robust research on gun violence as part of our comprehensive response to this public health crisis.

The United States government is in a position to establish an integrated public health research agenda to fully understand the causes of gun violence and identify the most effective strategies for prevention. We simply request the funds to do so. On behalf of families across the country, we urge you to recognize gun violence as a public health issue and include in the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill funding for the CDC and NIH to conduct this important research. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



/s/

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/

Jack Reed
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



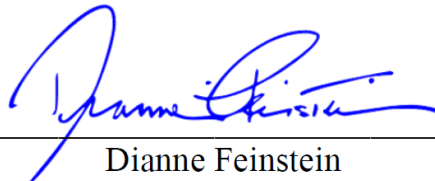
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



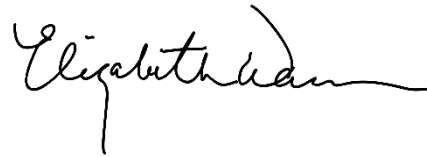
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator