

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 14, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to request the inclusion of \$10 million in the your Fiscal Year 2015 Budget request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct scientific research on the causes and prevention of gun violence in the United States.

Over a year after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut, and 18 months since the horrific shooting at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, gun violence continues to plague our country. Since 2013, school shootings have affected 44 American communities, and just last month an active shooter killed two young employees in a Maryland shopping mall.

We applauded the inclusion of \$10 million for research funding included in your Fiscal Year 2014 President's Budget, but we were disappointed that full funding was not included in the short term funding legislation that passed last month. The troublesome persistence of shooting incidents only underscores the continued need to support peer-reviewed research. A June 2013 Institute of Medicine report – issued as a result of your January 2013 executive order asking the CDC to sponsor or conduct research into the prevention of gun violence – laid out a research agenda on gun violence that can be conducted over the next three to five years. The report proposes a research agenda that will touch on a number of key topics, including the characteristics of firearm violence, risk and protective factors, and the impact of gun safety technology, and full funding will allow the CDC to begin this important initiative.

This agenda is merely a start – much more research could be needed following this initial phase or into other related topics. It is critical that we take this first step, because only the United States government is in a position to establish an integrated public health research agenda to understand the causes of gun violence and identify the most effective strategies for prevention.

Once again, we commend your Administration's efforts to address the scourge of gun violence in the United States and look forward to working with you to prevent future tragedies.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress