

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 27, 2015

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

Dear President Obama:

We write to request the inclusion of \$10 million in your Fiscal Year 2016 Budget request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) specifically to conduct scientific research on the causes and potential means to prevent gun violence in the United States.

There have been nearly 100 school shootings in the two years since the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT.¹ With an average of 32,000 deaths and 76,000 injuries occurring from gun violence each year in the United States, gun violence is a serious public health concern.²

In 2013 the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council (IOM/NRC) issued a report that identified research priorities for a better understanding of gun violence as a public health problem, including research on the causes of gun violence, health burdens, and potential interventions.³ Unfortunately, to date the CDC has not issued any specific research funding announcements for gun violence research, has no plans to recruit staff to conduct gun violence prevention research, and does not have a research team dedicated to gun violence prevention research.⁴ A specific line-item appropriation will assist the CDC in moving forward with this not yet started but much needed research as part of its general injury prevention and control activities.

¹ School Shootings in America Since Sandy Hook. Everytown for Gun Safety. Available at <http://everytown.org/article/schoolshootings/> Last accessed 12/29/14

² Gun Death and Injury 5 Year Average Stat Sheet. Brady Campaign. Available at <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/sites/default/files/Gun-Death-Injury-Stat-Sheet-5-Year-Average-2012-Updates-October-2014.pdf> Last accessed 12/16/14

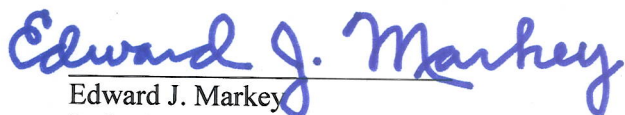
³ Institute of Medicine/National Research Council. Priorities for Research to Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence. June 5, 2013. Available at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Priorities-for-Research-to-Reduce-the-Threat-of-Firearm-Related-Violence.aspx>

⁴ Thomas R. Friedan, CDC Director. Letter dated November 6, 2014. Available at http://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2014-11-06_CDC_Markey_re_gun_violence_research.pdf Sent in response to the Letter dated September 12, 2014 from Senators Markey, Schumer, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, and Schatz. Available at <http://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/markey-leads-senators-in-query-of-cdc-on-gun-violence-research-efforts>

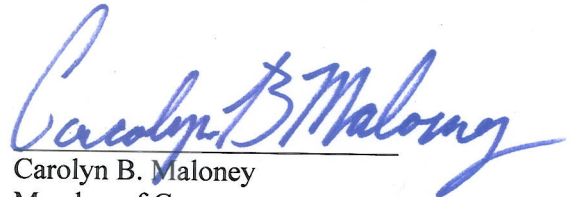
We applauded the \$10 million for CDC gun violence research funding included in the Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget Request. We were disappointed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill ultimately did not include a specific line-item appropriation for gun violence prevention research. An appropriation in Fiscal Year 2016 for gun violence prevention research would better enable the CDC to pursue the important research agenda articulated by IOM/NRC.

It is imperative that the CDC have adequate resources to conduct research to understand how best to prevent gun violence. We appreciate your Administration's efforts to address gun violence in the United States and look forward to working with you to prevent future tragedies.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



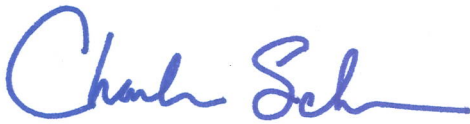
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



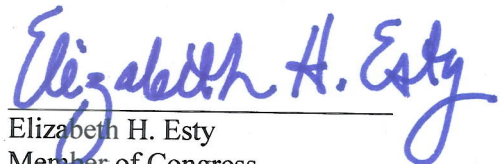
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



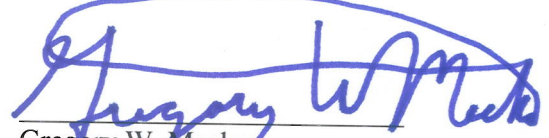
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



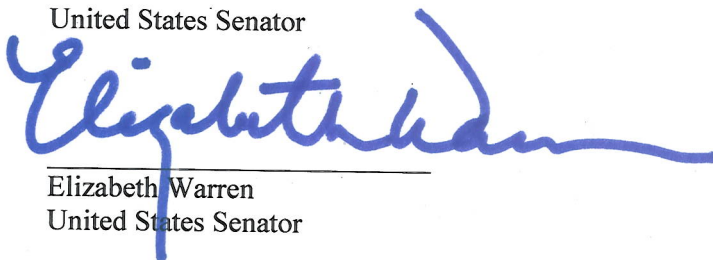
Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



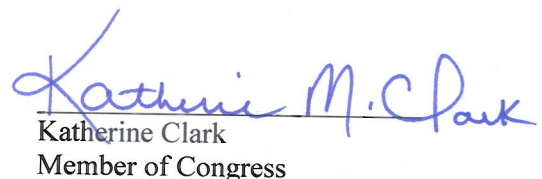
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator




Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



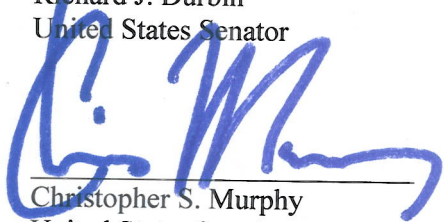
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



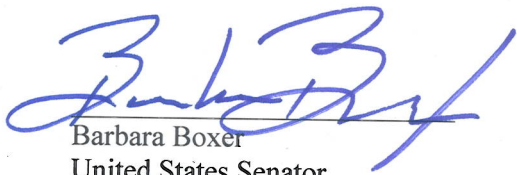
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



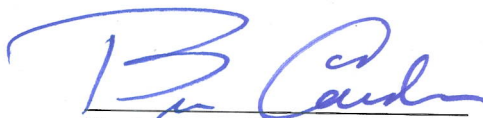
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



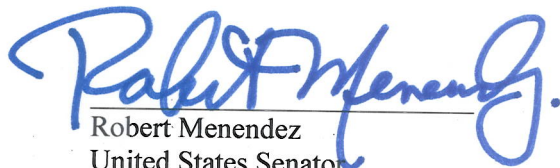
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



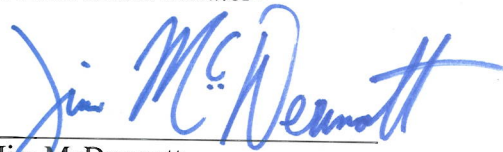
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



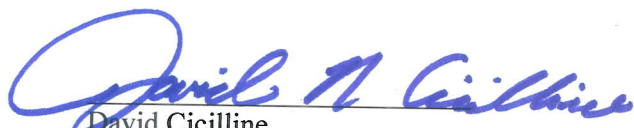
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



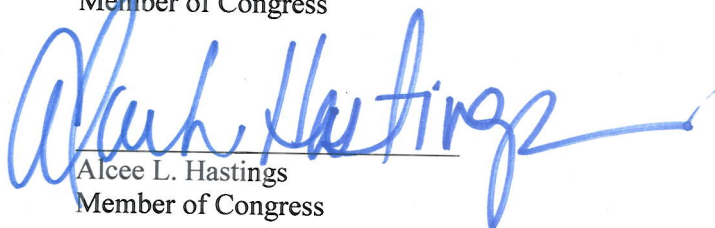
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



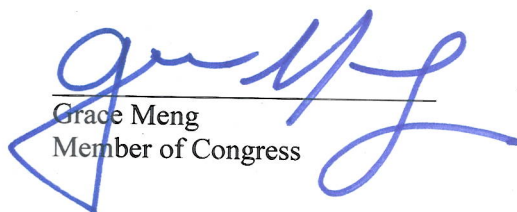
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



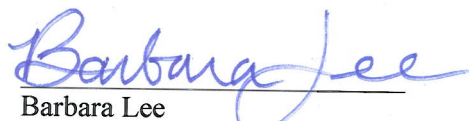
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



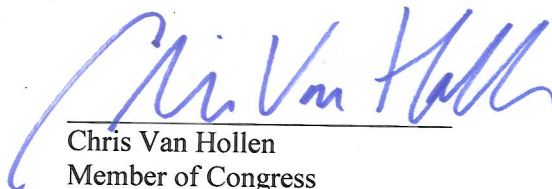
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



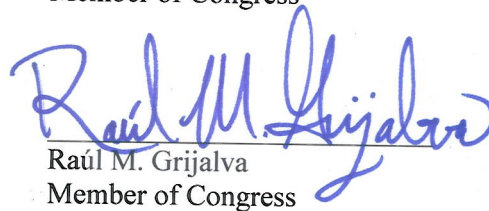
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



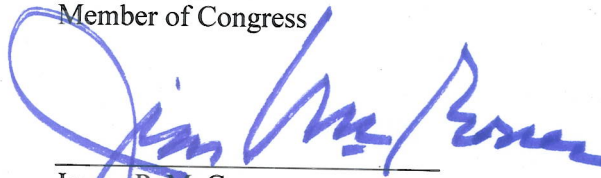
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



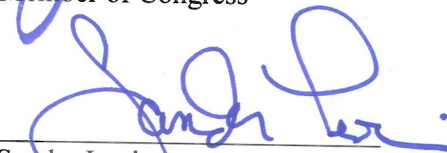
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



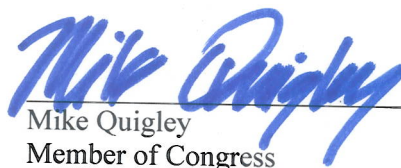
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



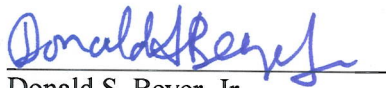
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

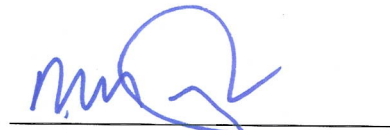


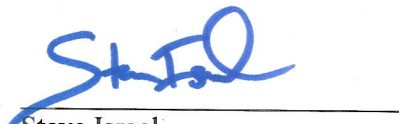
Sander Levin
Member of Congress

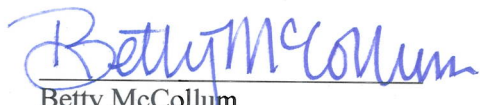


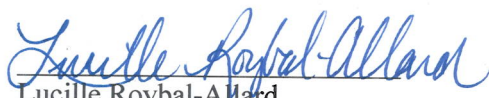
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

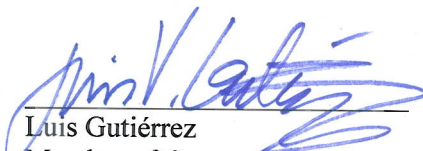

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

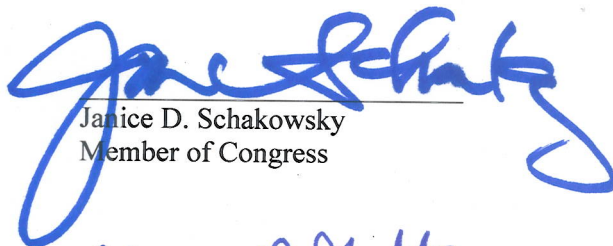

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress

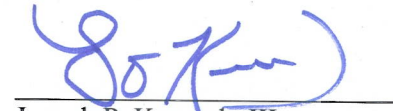

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

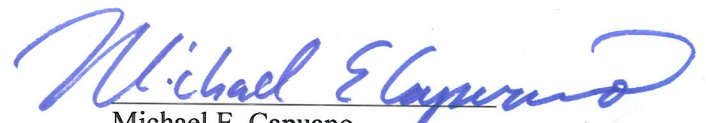

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

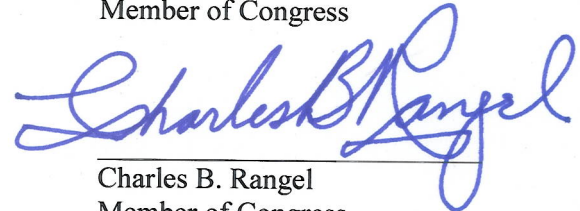

Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

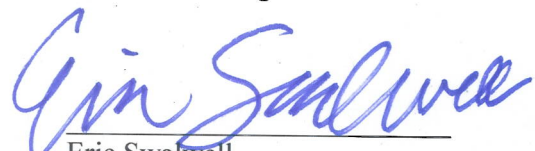

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

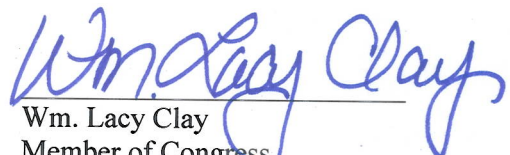

Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress

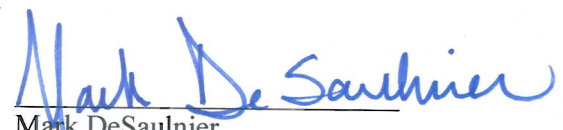

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

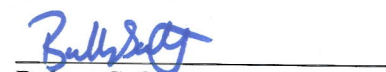

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress


Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Robert C. Scott
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