



American Medical Women's Association  
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

June 19, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the American Medical Women's Association, I am writing to urge Congress to enact legislation to reduce the incidence of gun violence and related deaths in the United States. Following the recent events in Orlando, as well as the daily gun violence that plagues American cities and towns, we believe that gun violence has now become a public health crisis in American. A bipartisan consensus is emerging in Congress to ensure the safety of Americans and reduce the threat of injury or death from firearms.

Deaths and injuries from firearms are not just a result of mass shootings, they are an everyday occurrence in our communities, homes, schools, and workplaces. Nearly 35,000 Americans die at the hand of a gun each year, costing billions of healthcare dollars and countless lost years of life. Physicians agree that decreasing the threat of gun violence will include: reversing the Dickey Amendment to allow language that provides funding for CDC research on gun violence, requiring criminal background checks for all firearm purchases, limiting the availability of assault-style weapons and large capacity magazines, allowing physicians to discuss gun safety within the confines of the doctor-patient relationship, and disallowing weapons from institutions of higher education.

The American Medical Women's Association is the largest specialty organization representing women physicians. AMWA believes that the threat to American public health is too great for Congress to delay the adoption of the above measures to reduce the threat of gun violence and allow for the study of the problem. We ask that Congress make reasonable and evidence-based decisions about guns that will ensure the safety of our patients and all citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Kempton, MD".

President  
American Medical Women's Association

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