

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support investments in public health research by including \$10 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to research firearm-related violence as it interacts with public health.

Gun-related deaths now nearly equal deaths from traffic accidents, but for too long, policymakers have lacked the comprehensive tools to craft an effective response to the public health crisis of gun violence. In June 2013, the Institute of Medicine developed a research agenda on gun violence that can be conducted over the next three to five years, including the characteristics of firearm violence, risk and protective factors, and the impact of gun safety technology. Dedicated funding of \$10 million will allow the CDC to begin this important initiative.

According to data compiled by the National Center of Injury Prevention and Control, between 1999 and 2010 firearm related violence claimed the lives of more than 360,000 individuals in the United States, including 35,366 children and teenagers. The Institute of Medicine report from June 2013 said, "by their sheer magnitude, injuries and deaths involving firearms constitute a pressing public health problem."

Research on the root causes of this important public health concern will better inform policymakers and the American people on how best to address this epidemic. We respectfully urge you to provide the CDC with \$10 million to research firearm-related

violence as it relates to public health in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



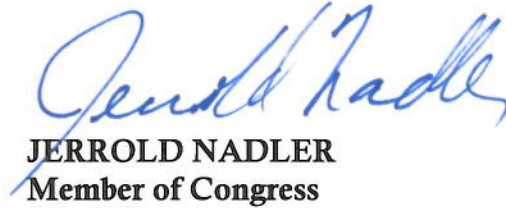
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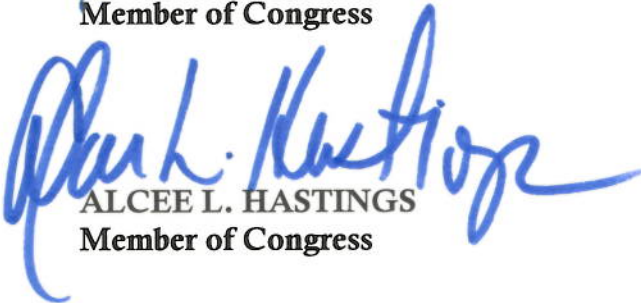
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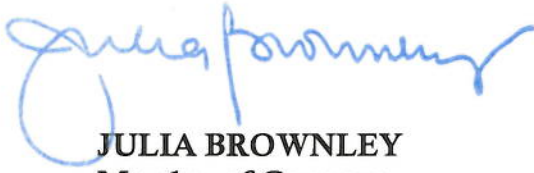
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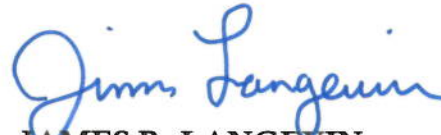
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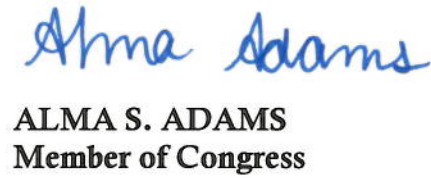


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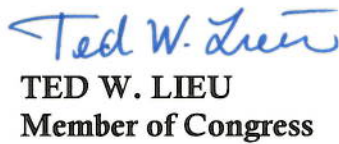
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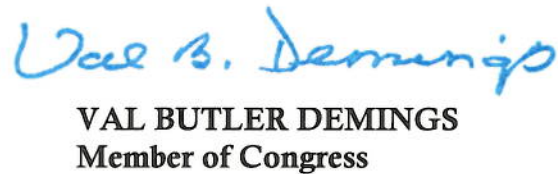
  
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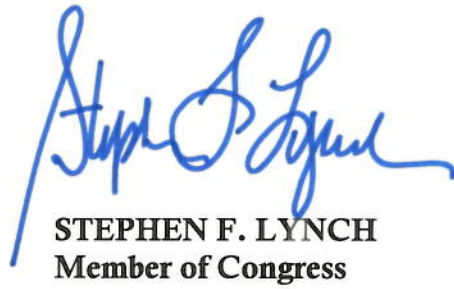
  
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