



Great Public Schools
for Every Student

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United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we would like to submit for the record the following comments in connection with today's hearing, "Addressing the Public Health Emergency of Gun Violence."

Impact of gun violence on students and educators

- [Everytown for Gun Safety](#) has recorded more than 400 incidents of gunfire on school grounds in the last five years.
- Firearms are the leading cause of death for African American children, and the second leading cause of death for all American children.

Congressional ban on research

- Since 1996, every appropriations bill has included a version of the Dicky amendment, which says, "[N]one of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control."
- The STOP School Violence Act of 2018, which the House passed by a vote of 407-10, makes it lawful to research gun violence as a public health issue.
- The 2018 omnibus funding bill says that CDC "has the authority to conduct research on the causes of gun violence."

What America's educators would like to see

- We deeply appreciate that the committee is holding this hearing and encourage Congress to fund CDC research on gun violence as a public health issue.
- We also encourage Congress to increase funding for — and access to — school-based health centers and their staffs. Proper diagnosis can and often starts in our schools, yet there is a shortage of counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists in public education.
- Funding for educators' professional development in related areas such as bullying, mental and behavioral health, and cultural competence needs to increase as well.

On behalf of America's students and educators, we stand ready to work with you to achieve these goals and thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association