Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

Each year, approximately 40,000 Americans die from gun violence—the highest number of any high-income country. In the wake of a seemingly endless string of horrific mass shootings and consistent news of community gun violence in our own districts, Americans of diverse backgrounds are joining with scientists, healthcare providers, and members of the public health community to demand decisive action from their elected leaders to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the high incidence of gun violence, we should all be able to agree that our response should be informed by sound scientific evidence. As you know, the House included $25 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and $25 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct gun violence prevention research in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill (H.R. 2740), which passed the House on June 19, 2019. This research would be consistent with other non-disease related research conducted by the CDC such as research on drowning prevention, intimate partner violence, and motor vehicle injuries. NIH also has a long history of supporting rigorous, peer-reviewed research on a wide variety of critical subjects. We know that research lays the foundation for effective, evidence-based interventions that will save lives.

Whether it is horrific mass shootings or the often-unreported gun violence that occurs every day in towns and cities across America—the call to action is clear. Instead of continuing with the unacceptable status quo, let us direct the research community to investigate

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evidence-based interventions that could help prevent gun violence and provide the essential resources to do so. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support $50 million for gun violence research at the CDC and NIH in any finalized fiscal year 2020 appropriations legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress

ROBIN L. KELLY
Member of Congress

CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress

MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

LUCY McBATH
Member of Congress

DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

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ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Tom Cole