

Future Physicians Call for Evidence-based Gun Laws

The Gun Violence Epidemic

There is an epidemic of gun violence in the United States. As a community of over 30,000 future health care providers, the American Medical Student Association calls for evidence-based interventions grounded in a public health approach to curb the epidemic. The United States is unique amongst peer nations in terms of firearm violence:

- 100 Americans are killed by gun violence every day, 36,000 each year¹
- Nearly 2/3 of all gun deaths in the US are suicides, resulting in an average of 63 deaths a day²
- The firearm suicide rate for children and teens have increased 65% over the last 10 years³
- Men represent 86% of firearm suicide victims; they are six times more likely than women to die by firearm suicide; white males 65 and over living in rural areas are at especially high risk⁴
- Gun violence costs the American economy at least \$229 billion every year⁵

The Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act of 2020

The Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act of 2020 (H.R.5717/S.3254) was introduced to Congress by Representative Henry “Hank” C. Johnson Jr. (D-GA) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). This bill utilizes a multi-factorial approach to addressing the gun violence epidemic including measures such as:

- Bringing private sales under existing background check regulations
- Closing the “boyfriend loophole” that excludes individuals in a dating relationship from federal protective order laws
- Creating a federal gun licensing system to ensure responsible gun ownership
- Raising minimum age of gun purchases to 21
- Investing \$100 million in annual funding for federal gun violence research and \$100 million in grants for gun violence intervention programs⁶

Future Physicians Stand with Patients in Support of the GVP and Community Safety Act of 2020

The 30,000 physicians-in-training that comprise the American Medical Student Association recognize that they will play a crucial role in responding to the gun violence crisis. The Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act will provide these future physicians with resources to truly respond to the epidemic and protect the health of their patients and communities. This bill provides an evidence-based approach to address this tragic epidemic and decrease the morbidity and mortality of gun violence in America.

AMSA calls on members of Congress to co-sponsor H.R.5717/S.3254 to advance this meaningful legislation that will provide a comprehensive response to this public health crisis.

¹ <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/gun-violence-statistics/>

² <https://everytownresearch.org/firearm-suicide/>

³ <https://everytownresearch.org/firearm-suicide/>

⁴ <https://everytownresearch.org/firearm-suicide/>

⁵ <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/gun-violence-statistics/>

⁶ <https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-warren-and-representative-johnson-unveil-comprehensive-legislation-to-help-end-epidemic-of-gun-violence-in-america>