American Academy of Nursing Supports Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence

Academy President Calls for Changes to Address Public Health Crisis

Washington, DC (September 26, 2019)—Today, the American Academy of Nursing (Academy) President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FACHE, FAAN spoke at a House of Representatives' Gun Violence Prevention Task Force press conference called by Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL) to provide a nursing perspective on this national public health crisis. The Academy remains committed to addressing root causes and generating solutions to reduce gun violence and prevent mass shootings.

The evidence is clear — mass shootings and gun violence affect the public’s health and demands immediate attention. Nurses have the responsibility to care for the injured and the vulnerable within impacted communities. Academy Fellows are leaders in practice, education, policy, and research who are committed to finding solutions that work. The Academy has published several recommendations for reducing gun violence, including “A Public Health Crisis: Recommendations to reduce gun violence in America” and “Recommendations in Response to Mass Shootings”, both available through the Academy’s journal, Nursing Outlook.

Recently, the Academy supported the Background Check Expansion Act (H.R. 8 / S. 42), which would help ensure no individual prohibited from gun possession is able to obtain a firearm; this has yet to be voted on in the Senate. The Academy has also requested increased research dollars for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which has taken the lead in researching violence prevention. Funding is urgently needed to conduct national research and public health surveillance on firearm-related injuries.

“No one should live in fear, suffer an injury or lose a loved one because of senseless gun violence,” said Academy President Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FACHE, FAAN. “The American Academy of Nursing stands ready to be a part of the solution and help shape policy to end this public health crisis. To do this, we must work together to shape policy at the federal level to prevent these needless tragedies from occurring.”

Formed in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force has grown to include more than 165 members. Chaired by Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA), the task force is committed to implementing commonsense solutions to reduce gun violence.

###

About the American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy, practice, and science through organizational excellence and effective nursing leadership. The Academy’s more than 2,600 Fellows are nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, research, and policy. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and healthcare.

Contact:
Ellie Cook | 202-777-1175 | ecook@AANnet.org