



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING

transforming health policy and practice through nursing knowledge

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We, the undersigned organizations, share a commitment to keep children, parents, families, teachers, responders, and administrators safe. We are writing to urge Congressional leadership to launch a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings within the next thirty days.

The time to act is now. In addition to thoughts and prayers for victims and families, we need the will of Congressional leadership to lead. We need common sense gun laws.

We recommend that the National Commission on Mass Shootings should be charged with identifying strategies for:

1. Creating a universal system for background checks designed to highlight an applicant's history of dangerousness and require that all purchasers of firearms complete a background check.
2. Strengthening laws so that high-risk individuals, including those with emergency, temporary, or permanent protective or restraining orders or those with convictions for family violence, domestic violence and/or stalking are prohibited from purchasing firearms.
3. Banning the future sale, importation, manufacture, or transfer of assault weapons, incorporating a more carefully crafted definition of the term "semiautomatic assault weapon" to reduce the risk that the law can be evaded.
4. Ensuring that health care professionals are unencumbered and fully permitted to fulfill their role in preventing firearm injuries by health screening, patient counseling, and referral to mental health services for those with high risk danger behaviors.
5. Focusing federal restrictions of gun purchase for persons on the dangerousness of the individual and fully funding federal incentives for states to provide information about dangerous histories to the National Instant Check System for gun buyers.
6. Supporting enriched training of health care professionals to assume a greater role in preventing firearm injuries by health screening.

7. Researching the causes of and solutions to firearm violence.

Thank you for your commitment to keep children safe. Convening a bipartisan National Commission on Mass Shootings is a start. If we can provide more information of if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the American Academy of Nursing, Cheryl G. Sullivan, CEO, Cheryl.Sullivan@AANnet.org or 202-777-1170.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing

ABIM Foundation
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare
American Association of Directors of Nursing Services
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse Midwives
American College of Nurse Midwives, Hawai'i State Affiliate
American Holistic Credentialing Corporation
American Nurses Association
American Nurses Association-New York
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
ARNPs United of Washington State
Association of Black Nursing Faculty
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Boston College, William F. Connell School of Nursing
Center for Forensic Nursing Excellence International
Center for Human Encouragement
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Children's Mercy Kansas City
Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations
Community Health Center, Inc.
Drexel University College of Nursing & Health Professions
Duquesne University School of Nursing
Fairfield University Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies
Forum for Shared Governance
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Grandmothers for Peace International
Greater Cleveland Nurses Association
Gundersen Medical Foundation, Inc. La Crosse, WI
HealthEd Connect, Inc.
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Infusion Nurses Society
INSIGHTS Intervention, LLC
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Association of Latino Nurse Faculty
International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
Kentucky Nurses Association
Massachusetts General Hospital
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses
Minnesota Student Nurses Association
National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence
New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing
New Jersey State Nurses Association
New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing
NursDynamics, LLC
Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International
Old Dominion University College of Health Science
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Organization of Colleges of Nursing-New Jersey
Partners in Health
PFR Consulting
Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc.
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
RMA Consulting/Arizona
Rush University College of Nursing
Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden
St. Catherine University, Henreitta Schmoll School of Health
Seattle University College of Nursing
Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Nurses
South Dakota Nurses Foundation
Southern Nursing Research Society
The Arnold P. Gold Foundation
The Graduate Center of the City University, Nursing Science PhD Program
United States Institute of Kangaroo Care
University of California San Francisco School of Nursing
University of Delaware School of Nursing
University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene
University of Kentucky College of Nursing
University of Minnesota, Center for Spirituality and Healing
University of San Diego, Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science,
Beyster Institute for Nursing Research
University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions
University of Toronto, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing
University of Virginia, School of Nursing
University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing
Yale School of Nursing