



March 7, 2018

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy
U.S House of Representatives
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we thank you for introducing the Gun Violence Research Act (H.R. 1478). As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents over 810 schools of nursing, which educate over 500,000 students, and employ more than 45,000 faculty. As educators, we fully support this legislation's mission to bolster scientific endeavors that examine gun-related injuries and fatalities that have become increasingly more common in schools, on college campuses, and places of employment.

Nurses care for the victims of gun violence from the moment of response through recovery. They not only treat the patients, but are also charged with keeping their families and caregivers apprised during a highly emotional time. Nurse scientists with a public health background, have and will continue to make investigating violence a priority as they see the expansive impact on the individual, the family, the community, and the nation. The ability for nurses and the larger healthcare system to be equipped to respond to this public health threat is inextricably linked to the research behind gun violence. As with other recent public health emergencies, such as the Zika virus and the opioid crisis, research has and will continue to provide the foundation for creating timely and appropriate local, state, and national responses. It makes sense then that gun violence should be taken under the same consideration so that we as a nation can be confident in our public safety.

Again, we commend the introduction of H.R. 1478. If AACN can be of assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to our Director of Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at Linouye@aacnnursing.org or (202)-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juliann G. Sebastian". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
AACN Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah E. Trautman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC NURSING