

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 31, 2016

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

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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

Each year, approximately 32,000 Americans die from gun violence—the highest number in the developed world. As gun-related deaths and injuries continue to wreak havoc in our districts, more and more Americans are joining with scientists and members of the public health community to demand decisive action from their elected leaders to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

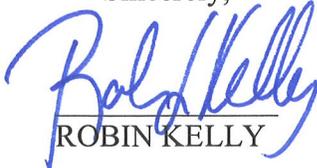
Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the high incidence of gun violence, we should all be able to agree that our response should be informed by sound scientific evidence. That's why we are asking you to take one simple step to prevent future tragedies by removing the language that creates a chilling effect on federally funded gun violence research at the Department of Health and Human Services in fiscal year 2017 appropriations legislation.

As you are aware, annual policy riders—known as the “Dickey Amendments” and “Rehberg Amendments”—have in practice prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies falling under the Department of Health and Human Services from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health.

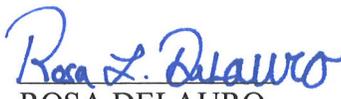
Whether it is horrific mass shootings or the often unreported gun violence that occurs every day in towns and cities across America—the call to action is clear. Instead of continuing with the status quo, let's allow the research community to investigate evidence-based solutions that could help prevent gun violence while still protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners. We strongly urge you to direct the House Appropriations Committee to not include any riders in appropriations legislation that freeze gun violence research.

Sincerely,


DAVID E. PRICE


ROBIN KELLY


MIKE QUIGLEY


ROSA DELAURO


NITA LOWEY

Alma Adams
ALMA ADAMS

Pete Aguilar
PETE AGUILAR

Joyce Beatty
JOYCE BEATTY

Ami Bera
AMI BERA

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Earl Blumenauer
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JIM COOPER

Joe Courtney
JOE COURTNEY

Joseph Crowley
JOSEPH CROWLEY

Eliah Cummings
ELIJAH CUMMINGS

Danny K. Davis
DANNY K. DAVIS

Susan A. Davis
SUSAN DAVIS

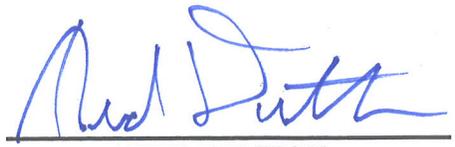
Peter A. DeFazio
PETER A. DEFAZIO


DIANA DEGETTE


JOHN DELANEY


SUZAN DELBENE


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TED DEUTCH


LLOYD DOGGETT


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ANNA G. ESHOO


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SAM FARR


CHAKA FATTAH


BILL FOSTER


LOIS FRANKEL

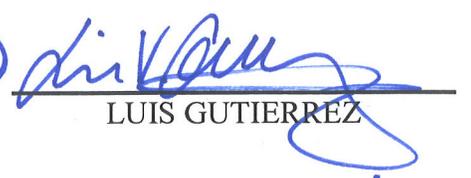

MARCIA L. FUDGE


RUBEN GALLEGO

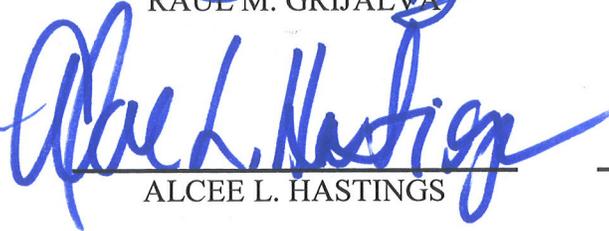

ALAN GRAYSON


AL GREEN


RAUL M. GRIJALVA

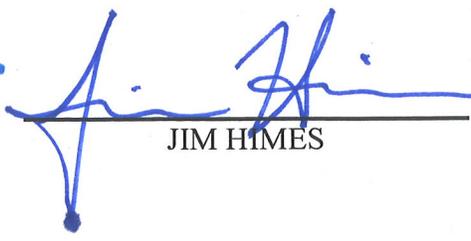

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ALCEE L. HASTINGS


DENNY HECK


BRIAN HIGGINS


JIM HIMES


RUBEN HINOJOSA



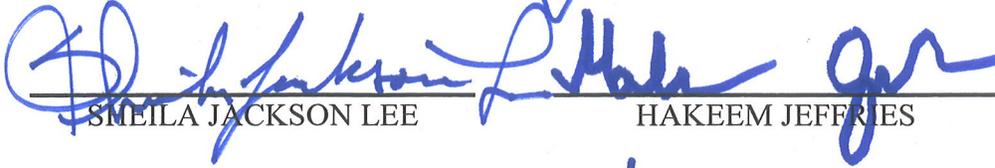
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SHEILA JACKSON LEE



HAKEEM JEFFRIES



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON



HANK JOHNSON



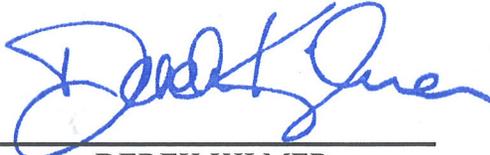
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BRENDA LAWRENCE



BARBARA LEE



SANDER LEVIN



TED LIEU



DANIEL LIPINSKI



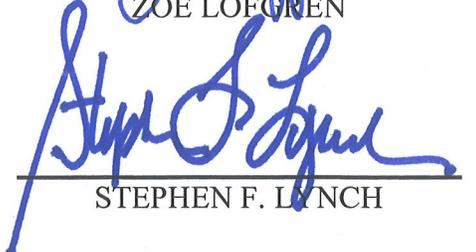
ZOE LOFGREN



ALAN LOWENTHAL



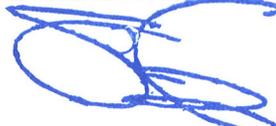
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM



STEPHEN F. LYNCH



CAROLYN MALONEY



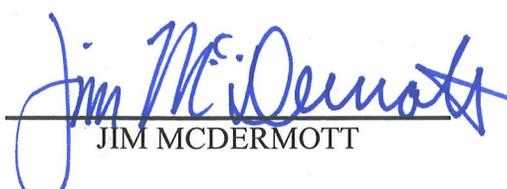
SEAN PATRICK MALONEY



DORIS MATSUI



BETTY MCCOLLUM



JIM MCDERMOTT



JAMES MCGOVERN

Jerry Mc Nerney

JERRY MCNERNEY

Gregory W. Meeks

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Seth Moulton

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DONALD NORCROSS

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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

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BILL PASCRELL, JR.

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DONALD PAYNE, JR.

Ed Perlmutter

ED PERLMUTTER

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SCOTT PETERS

Chellie Pingree

CHELLIE PINGREE

Stacey Plaskett

STACEY PLASKETT

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MARK POCAN

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JARED POLIS

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KATHLEEN RICE

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CEDRIC RICHMOND

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LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

Raul Ruiz

RAUL RUIZ

Bobby L. Rush

BOBBY L. RUSH

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