

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2015

Rep. Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

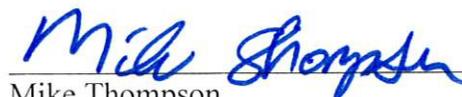
As the House finalizes appropriations legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2015, we write to request that you remove language that continues the prohibition against federally funded research on gun violence. The “Dickey Amendment” bans Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding for research that “may be used to advocate or promote gun control.” Functionally, this has prevented any research on the causes of gun violence or the effects of gun violence on public health since it was passed in 1996.

We dedicate \$240 million a year on traffic safety research, more than \$233 million a year on food safety, and \$331 million a year on the effects of tobacco, but almost nothing on firearms that kill 33,000 Americans annually. The result is a lack of fundamental research on gun violence, gun safety, and what public policy measures will effectively stem the tide of gun deaths. In 1992 and 1993, the New England Journal of Medicine published studies showing residents in homes with a gun faced a 2.7-fold greater risk of homicide and a 4.8-fold greater risk of suicide – this cannot be our most recent publicly funded gun violence research.

We can no longer silence our nation’s researchers. We urge your subcommittee to remove these provisions that have prevented gun violence research for far too long.

Sincerely,


Jackie Speier


Mike Thompson

Donal S Beyer
Don Beyer

Ted Deutch
Ted Deutch

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer

Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth

Suzanne Bonamici
Suzanne Bonamici

Donna F. Edwards
Donna F. Edwards

John C. Carney, Jr.
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Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel

John Conyers
John Conyers

Anna Eshoo
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Elijah E. Cummings
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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Mark DeSaulnier
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Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly

Raúl M. Grijalva

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James R. Langevin

James R. Langevin

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Brenda L. Lawrence

Brenda L. Lawrence

Jim Himes

Jim Himes

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee

Mike Honda

Mike Honda

Ted W. Lieu

Ted Lieu

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney

Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly

Jim McGovern

James P. McGovern

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

Brenda L. Lawrence

Brenda L. Lawrence

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler

Kathleen M. Rice

Kathleen M. Rice

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano

Cedric L. Richmond

Cedric L. Richmond

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

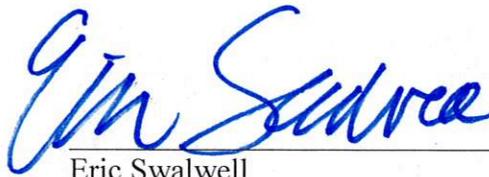
Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff



Adam Smith



Eric Swalwell



Chris Van Hollen



Grace Meng



Mike Quigley



Steve Cohen