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June 4, 2014

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson,

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the medical specialty society representing more than 35,000 psychiatric physicians and their patients, we thank you for your leadership in introducing the Promoting Healthy Minds for Safer Communities Act, which seeks to prevent self and other directed firearms violence and support the provision of needed mental health services.

In particular, APA appreciates your inclusion of several common sense provisions that will help promote safe communities and reduce mortality due to firearm related violence. These include support for federal violence research (including firearms violence), recognition of the importance of physicians having the ability to discuss firearms with their patients, and encouragement of states to adopt laws that provide for temporary removal of firearms for individuals in crisis situations.

We appreciate your outreach and interest in the mental health community's thoughts throughout your legislative development process. It is APA's hope that both parties can come together and enact common sense reforms called for by APA's *Position Statement on Firearm Access, Acts of Violence and the Relationship to Mental Illness and Mental Health Services*, and we offer ourselves as a resource for any public policy maker who is interested in working on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A.
CEO and Medical Director
American Psychiatric Association

