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January 11, 2019

Chris Barsotti, MD
Chief Executive Officer
American Foundation for Firearm Injury
Reduction in Medicine
P.O. Box 503
Williamstown, MA 01267

Re: American Psychiatric Association's support for the American Foundation
for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine

Dear Dr. Barsotti:

On behalf of the more than 37,800 members of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), I am pleased to let you know that the APA Board of Trustees voted to work with the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine (AFFIRM).

The APA is proud to join other leading health organizations in identifying gun violence as a public health crisis that requires a comprehensive and multifaceted public health solution. As physicians, we rely on a science-based approach to problem solving and know that solutions must be developed through evidence and extensive research. The APA believes that robust study into the underlying causes of gun violence and the effectiveness of potential interventions is necessary to reversing course and preventing further injury, death and other harms to society resulting from firearms.

We at the American Psychiatric Association are concerned about the mental health impact of the epidemic of gun violence, which exacts a terrible toll on American families each year. APA conducted a poll in 2018 and found that Americans are more united than divided when it comes to guns. The vast majority see gun safety as an issue, and they want to see actions to prevent gun violence. More than 87 percent see gun violence as a public health threat, including 77 percent of Republicans and 96 percent of Democrats. The APA has and will continue to call for Congress to take sensible, evidence-based action to prevent future deaths with dedicated federal funding for research. But we cannot wait for Congress to act and look forward to our

partnership with AFFIRM to fill the research gap. AFFIRM seeks to raise private funding to support research into the causes of gun violence, risk factors associated with gun violence, and potential interventions. From this research will emerge best practice recommendations, clinical, educational resources and evidence-based training curricula to be integrated into medical education and clinical practice.

APA looks forward to stands ready to help in any way we can. Please contact Colleen Coyle, JD, APA General Counsel at ccoyle@psych.org to discuss collaboration. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saul Levin M.D., M.P.A., FRCP-E". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A., FRCP-E
Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director
American Psychiatric Association
