

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
United States Health & Human Services
Washington D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to you today to urge you to protect the Second Amendment from attacks by a partisan and weaponized Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH)—which became a dangerous threat to gun ownership under the Biden Administration.

Congress restricted the use of funds to lobby for gun control because of the weaponization of the CDC and NIH in the 1990's, but these critical appropriations safeguards have been ignored in recent years. The intent was to protect gun owners from weaponization by the Clinton Administration. Then-CDC spokesman Dr. Mark Rosenberg had been promoting and advocating gun control, saying things like: “We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes...It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol—cool, sexy, macho. Now, it is dirty, deadly—and banned.”ⁱ

That same CDC also issued an anti-gun “study” recommending the implementation of unconstitutional gun control—a national gun registry and a ban on unregistered handguns.ⁱⁱ So the CDC and NIH forced Congress to include common sense funding restrictions to protect the Second Amendment from this weaponized anti-gun “research” known as the “Dickey Amendment.”

The Dickey Amendment, which is current federal law, says that no CDC or NIH funds may be used to “advocate or promote gun control.” However, the Biden White House and gun control advocates censored self-defense statistics from the CDC website, statistics that would have helped explain the importance of the Second Amendment to our citizens.ⁱⁱⁱ Meanwhile, the Biden Administration also weaponized millions of dollars of research funding appropriated by Congress in good faith for “Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research” to promote gun control.^{iv}

In total violation of the Dickey Amendment, CDC and NIH have misappropriated the following funding for gun control purposes:

- \$3,600,000 to study “firearm retirement” for senior citizens which “will strongly parallel key (but not all) aspects of driving retirement;”^v
- \$1,100,000 to study the “relationship between lawful gun ownership and risk;”^{vi}
- \$428,000 to study how “episodic crime reports... that depict violence as a ‘crime’ issue... can lead audiences to blame victims [and] reinforce racist stereotypes;”^{vii}
- \$126,000 to find out why Black Americans are six times more likely “to experience an assault-related firearm injury” as White Americans;^{viii}
- \$2,100,000 “to inform evidence-based interventions that prevent firearm injury risks involving Asian Americans” caused by their mere “firearm possession;”^{ix}
- \$333,000 to “evaluate” gun confiscation laws and gun purchase wait periods in California;^x
- \$518,000 “to enhance policy implementation” of “expanded background checks, [in]secure firearm storage requirements” and gun confiscation laws in Michigan;^{xi}
- \$650,000 to study “firearm prohibitions and relinquishment;”^{xii}
- \$349,000 to find out if state gun control “firearm laws reduce mortality;”^{xiii}

- \$490,000 to study a state with Constitutional Carry versus a state with strict gun control;^{xiv}
- \$1,200,000 to run a study including “in person and telehealth wellness check-ins” which explicitly include “safety (e.g., guns at home...);”^{xv} and more.

Congress intended for CDC and NIH to conduct research on medical procedures, practices, treatments, medicines, and therapies related to firearm injuries and recovery. Instead, this funding has been weaponized to promote and advocate gun control in direct violation of federal law.

Treating firearm-related violent crime as a public health issue may start with a study about gun control but ends with tyranny. For an excellent example, look no further than the recent actions by the Governor of New Mexico, who abused a “public health emergency” to declare a total ban on the lawful carry of firearms for self-defense in the entire city of Albuquerque—even for licensed concealed carry permit holders. Gun Owners of America filed a lawsuit to defend the Second Amendment in New Mexico and the tyrannical governor was forced to back down. Soon after, the Biden Administration also declared “gun violence” a so-called “public health crisis” and issued a nationwide advisory. We cannot allow these abuses of federal funds to continue allowing bureaucrats to attack our Second Amendment rights.

Secretary Kennedy, we the undersigned members of Congress urge you direct the Department of Health and Human Services to instead:

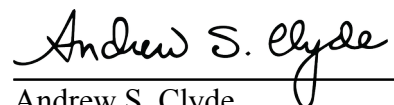
- 1) Stop advocating for gun control;
- 2) Withdraw the U.S. Surgeon General Advisory declaring “gun violence” a public health crisis rather than a crime issue;
- 3) Study the effects of gun-free zones in which over 90% of all mass public shootings take place;^{xvi}
- 4) Study the damage caused to the hearing of hunters, sportsmen, and home defenders by the lack of widespread use of sound suppression technology;
- 5) Study the current media coverage practices concerning mass public shootings which a growing body of evidence suggests may increase the likelihood of future mass public murders;^{xvii}
- 6) Study firearm injury treatments and medical practices; and
- 7) Restore the self-defense statistics which were censored from the CDC’s website.

Any further funding for these anti-gun “studies” by the CDC and NIH which are designed and intended to be weaponized against firearm owners and our cherished Second Amendment must be blocked.


Sincerely,



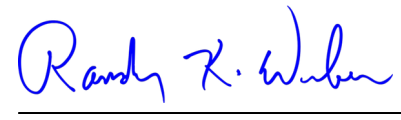
Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



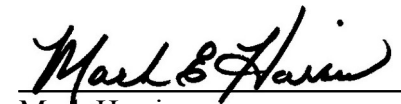
Abraham J. Hamadeh
Member of Congress




Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress




Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Mark Harris
Member of Congress




Barry Moore
Member of Congress




Brandon Gill
Member of Congress



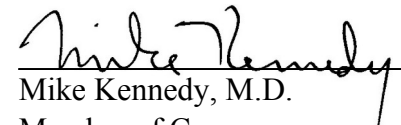
Addison P. McDowell
Member of Congress




Troy Downing
Member of Congress




Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



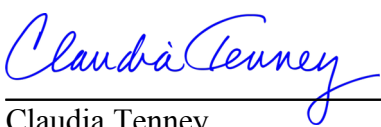
Mike Kennedy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Nicholas J. Begich III
Congressman for All Alaska



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

CC: U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi
CC: U.S. DOGE Service Administrator Elon Musk

- i <https://www.nytimes.com/1994/10/16/us/new-tactics-urged-in-fight-against-crime.html>
- ii <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejm199310073291506>
- iii <https://thereload.com/emails-cdc-removed-defensive-gun-use-stats-after-gun-control-advocates-pressured-officials-in-private-meeting/>
- iv <https://clyde.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=1324>
- v https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AG059613_7529/
- vi https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01AG076382_7529/
- vii https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R21MD019083_7529/
- viii https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R21MD019083_7529/
- ix https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_RF1NR020753_7529/
- x https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01CE003630_7523/
- xi https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_K18MH135466_7529/
- xii https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01CE003623_7523/
- xiii https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01CE003617_7523/
- xiv https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01MD017204_7529/
- xv https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01MD016280_7529/
- xvi <https://crimeresearch.org/2022/05/breaking-down-mass-public-shooting-data-from-1998-through-may-2022-info-on-weapons-used-gun-free-zones-racial-age-and-gender-demographics/>
- xvii For more information, see Senator Mike Lee’s resolution calling on the media to voluntarily adopt responsible journalistic practices. The resolution is endorsed by Dr. Jordan Peterson and cites international and peer reviewed research. <https://www.lee.senate.gov/2023/7/lee-to-media-end-the-killer-fame-game>