

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
1404 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Seth Moulton
1408 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Curbelo and Representative Moulton:

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), our 37,000 members, and the more than 130 million patients we treat each year, I write to express ACEP's support for your important bipartisan legislation to ban the manufacture, possession, and sale of "bump stocks" and similar devices that allow semiautomatic firearms to easily mimic the firing rate of fully automatic firearms. This legislation is a reasonable and commonsense step to help ensure the safety of the American public, and we appreciate your leadership on this critical issue.

Fully automatic firearms are highly regulated under federal law, but bump stocks and other related devices can be purchased by any consumer in the country to allow semiautomatic firearms to be easily and cheaply modified to fire at a rate of up to 400-800 rounds per minute to perform in a manner that nears the capabilities of a fully automatic firearm, exploiting loopholes in these laws.

The availability of these devices poses a very real and serious threat to public safety, as we have already tragically witnessed. On October 1, 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada, 58 people were killed and 489 others were injured in the deadliest mass shooting in American history to date. Emergency departments all across the Las Vegas Valley were faced with the largest mass casualty event they had ever witnessed as hundreds of patients filled the halls and operating rooms. While the shooter's motivations and personal responsibility for this inexplicable attack cannot be ignored, it is clear the scope and severity of this shooting was facilitated by the use of firearms fitted with bump stocks to increase the rate of fire.

While recognizing the right of individuals to own firearms, ACEP policy supports efforts that restrict the sale and ownership of weapons and munitions designed for military or law enforcement use. The sole function of bump stocks and other such devices is to enable semiautomatic firearms to closely emulate the performance of fully automatic firearms that are limited to the military or law enforcement or are otherwise highly regulated for civilian use. As such, a federal ban on these devices is consistent with both established ACEP policy and existing federal law.

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We acknowledge that banning the sale, possession, and manufacture of these devices will not solve all our nation's challenges in reducing firearm violence, nor can it fully prevent intentional "bump firing." However, this bill can help reduce access to these implements that are mass produced in clear exploitation of a legal loophole. ACEP firmly believes that reasonable and narrowly-focused steps can be taken to improve public health and safety by appropriately regulating bump stocks and similar devices without infringing upon the rights of law-abiding Americans, and we believe that your legislation is an important step in the right direction.

Thank you once again for your bipartisan leadership on this critical issue. As emergency physicians, our highest priority is the health and safety of the public and we support efforts to achieve that important goal. Your approach is proof that both sides can find agreement on a topic that is often highly contentious, and ACEP commends you for addressing this matter in a thoughtful and reasonable way. ACEP stands ready to help secure enactment of this vital legislation into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca B. Parker, MD".

Rebecca B. Parker, MD, FACEP
ACEP President