[Date]

[Name]

[Professional Address]

[Professional contact]

Dear Senator/Governor/Congressmen/Congresswoman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

As an emergency physician, it is my duty to advocate for patients. Today, I am writing to address a very vulnerable population: pediatric victims of firearm injury. Firearm-related injuries are the third leading cause of death among US children, and 91% of children that die due to firearms in developed countries world-wide die in the United States. American emergency physicians see young children suffer daily because of readily-available dangerous weapons. This must stop.

We are not powerless. We must address firearm injuries as a public health crisis. Physicians, public health officials and elected leaders have successfully reduced injuries from other mechanisms like motor vehicle collisions and household poisonings through careful study and evidence-based regulations. We must do the same for firearm injuries. When it comes to motor vehicles, we monitor speed, have safety seat requirements, car inspections, age restrictions and laws against drunk and impaired driving. We must impose similar restrictions on firearms to keep children and vulnerable persons safe. Automatic assault rifles should not be available to the general public.

As a physician who are cannot tolerate watching the children of my community roll through my emergency room doors with firearm injuries any longer, I am urging you to help. Below are 9 essential proposals from the American College of Emergency Physicians. They preserve the rights of citizens to defend themselves and hunt using guns, have broad public support and have demonstrated efficacy here and abroad.

· Restrict the sale and ownership of weapons, munitions, and large-capacity magazines that are designed for military or law enforcement use.

· Encourage the change of societal norms that glorify a culture of violence to one of social civility;

· Investigate the effect of socioeconomic and other cultural risk factors on firearm injury and provide public and private funding for firearm safety and injury prevention research;

· Create a confidential national firearm injury research registry while encouraging states to establish a uniform approach to tracking and recording firearm related injuries;

· Promote access to effective, affordable, and sustainable mental health services;

· Protect the duty of physicians and encourage health care provider discussions with patients on firearm safety;

· Promote the development of technology that increases firearm safety;

· Support universal background checks for firearm transactions;

· Require the enforcement of existing laws and support new legislation that prevents high risk and prohibited individuals from obtaining firearms by any means

Physicians and politicians must provide leadership in preventing more unnecessary deaths and injuries from firearms. Our homes, schools, and streets should not be a battlefield. Let me know how I can be of assistance in preventing any more pointless deaths and injuries from firearms. Help protect our children.

Respectfully,