

August 7, 2016

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Cc: Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108-1518

Dear Governor Baker:

We are Massachusetts physicians, public health professionals, and constituents, wishing to voice our strong support for the Assault Weapons Ban Enforcement Notice issued on July 19th by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.

We see the current gun violence crisis as an urgent public health issue facing our state and country, and as residents of Massachusetts, we are privileged to live in a state that has demonstrated critical leadership on this issue. As public health professionals we strongly support the existing assault weapons ban in our state, and feel that this ban is essential to reduce both accidental and intentional deaths caused by these weapons. Appropriately, our state's law already explicitly banned "copies and duplicates" of all weapons prohibited under the ban. We agree that gun manufacturers should not be able to circumvent our law by producing and marketing so-called "state-compliant" weapons with trivial changes that do nothing to mitigate the lethal capability of the original. It is obvious to us that these "copycats" retain the same devastating ability to kill many innocent human beings quickly. We therefore strongly support our Attorney General in clarifying in the Enforcement Notice that weapons with essentially the same operating system or with key functional components interchangeable with those of banned weapons are also illegal under our ban. To us, as public health professionals, it is sensible--and in fact imperative--to ensure that a law that was meant to protect people from extremely dangerous guns is meaningfully enforced. The health of the public of Massachusetts simply requires that these lethal weapons stay out of our homes and off our streets.

As Governor, you have already demonstrated impressive leadership on another public health crisis--opiate abuse--and gun violence needs to be addressed with similar urgency. As professionals who devote our lives to keeping fellow human beings healthy and safe, we are strongly in support of our Attorney General's efforts to protect Massachusetts citizens from gun violence. We urge you to stand with the Attorney General and to do everything in your own

power to mitigate the risks and impact of gun violence in our state, and to thus protect the health and safety of the public.

Thank you,

Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH
Dean
School of Public Health, Boston University
715 Albany Street - Talbot 301
Boston, MA 02118
t: 617.638.4644
f: 617.638.5299
sgalea@bu.edu

Nira Pollock, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Tanvi Sharma, MD, MPH
Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Niraj Sharma, MD, MPH
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Jane M. Liebschutz, MD, MPH
Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine

Frederick L. Ruberg, MD
Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine

Jane E. Freedman, MD
University of Massachusetts Medical Center

Mark D. Iafrati, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Robert Sege, MD, PhD
Health Resources in Action, Boston

Robert J. Vinci, MD
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Camila M. Mateo, MD
Chief Resident
Boston Combined Residency Program

Mandy Coles, MD, MPH, FSAHM
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Meghan Baker, MD, ScD
Brookline, MA

William DeBassio, Ph.D., M.D.
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Catherine Michelson, MD, MMSc
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Camilla S. Graham, MD, MPH
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Harvard Medical School

Elyse Portillo, MD, MPH
Chief Resident, Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Medical Center/Boston Children's Hospital

Judith S. Palfrey MD
Senior Associate in Medicine
Boston Children's Hospital
T. Berry Brazelton Professor of Pediatrics
Harvard Medical School
Professor of Social and Behavioral Science
Harvard Chan School of Public Health

Elizabeth Hutton, MD
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Abhinav Vemula, MD
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Sushrut S. Waikar, MD, MPH
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Sean Palfrey, MD
Boston Medical Center

Nahid Bhadelia, MD, MA
Boston Medical Center

Antonio Campos-Neto, MD, PhD
The Forsyth Institute
Cambridge MA

Michael Hirsh, MD, FACS, FAAP
Pediatric Trauma Director
UMASS Memorial Children's Medical Center
Worcester, MA

Melissa T. Nass, MD, MPH
Boston Medical Center
Boston University School of Medicine

Joel T. Katz, MD
Brigham & Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Jeffrey D. Dvorin, MD, PhD
Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

David Hemenway, PhD
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Julia F. Charles, MD, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Rebecca Berman, MD
Marshall A Wolf, MD Chair in Primary Care Medical Education
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Charlotte Mao, MD, MPH
Brookline, MA

Sarah M. Bagley, MD
Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Herrick Fisher, MD MPhil
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Bindu Kalesan, PhD MPH
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston, MA

Harris A. Berman, MD, FACP
Dean
Tufts University School of Medicine
Boston, MA

George J. Philippides MD
Newton-Wellesley Hospital
Newton MA

Leonor Fernandez, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, MA

Tisamarie Sherry, MD PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA

Lucy Marcil, MD MPH
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Nancy Rixe, MD
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, MS
Boston University School of Medicine

Jennifer Hoffmann, MD
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow
Boston Children's Hospital

Vanessa Mazandi, MD
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Thomas J. Sandora, MD MPH
Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Alcy R. Torres, MD
Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine

Yarden S. Fraiman, MD
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Daniel Weisberg, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA

Emelia J. Benjamin, MD, ScM
Assistant Provost of Faculty Development
Boston University Medical Campus
Boston, MA

Sarah L. Goff, MD
Baystate Medical Center/Tufts University School of Medicine
Springfield, MA

Kristin Schwarz, MD
Boston Medical Center and Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

Puja Umaretiya, MD
Boston Medical Center and Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

Patricia K. Foo, MD PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA

Megan Murray, MD, ScD
Harvard Medical School

Kristine Torres-Lockhart, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA

Amanda Stewart, MD MPH
Boston Children's Hospital Emergency Department
Boston, MA

Katherine Nash, MD
Boston Medical Center and Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

Yuan He, MD, MPH
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Byron Ho, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, MA

Molly Lewen, MD
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Blake Martin, MD
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA

Conor O'Halloran, MD
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Arielle Spellun, MD
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Avital Ludomirsky, MD, MPP
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Rebecca Jones MD LLC
Baystate Franklin Medical Center
Whately, MA

Tracy Seimears, MD
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Alexandra Baker, MD
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Boston Medical Center
Boston, MA

Destiny Tolliver, MD
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Medical Center | Boston Children's Hospital

Kate Millington, MD
Boston Combined Residency Program
Boston Children's Hospital/Boston Medical Center