



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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January 14, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and our 78,000 members are concerned that violence inflicted by guns continues to be a daily event in the United States and mass casualties involving firearms threaten the health and safety of the public.

In order to prevent many of the injuries that surgeons treat every day, the American College of Surgeons supports legislation banning civilian access to assault weapons, large ammunition clips, and munitions designed for military and law enforcement agencies. The ACS also supports enhancing mandatory background checks for the purchase of firearms to include gun shows and auctions.

Healthcare professionals play a critical role in preventing firearm injuries by health screening, patient counseling, and referral to mental health services for those with behavioral medical conditions. These resources should be available to patients and any impediments to physicians accessing these services for their patients should be removed.

The ACS supports developing and promoting proactive programs directed at improving safe gun storage and the teaching of non-violent conflict resolution for a culture that often glorifies guns and violence in media and gaming.

Finally, the ACS believes that the creation of a national firearm injury database to inform federal health policy is essential.

Thank you for your work on this important issue. We look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

A. Brent Eastman, MD FACS
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