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Investment in Violence Intervention is a Positive First Step to Address Gun Violence

Our organizations, which represent more than 600,000 physicians and medical students, are encouraged by the Biden-Harris administration's recent announcement of actions on addressing gun violence, a significant threat to the health of our patients and the communities in which physicians serve. Gun violence is a public health epidemic, and recent mass shootings around the country, along with other sources of firearm violence and injury, underscore that this remains a serious issue.

The administration's commitment to investing in programs and resources at the local level for violence intervention is a welcome first step to help provide for healthy and safe communities. However, legislative action is needed to comprehensively address this epidemic.

We encourage lawmakers to work together to enact evidence-based policies to identify and address the key drivers of gun violence, including efforts to strengthen background checks and investing in programs that help tackle this epidemic such as expanding the funding for public health research on preventing firearm violence and firearm injury prevention. Our members stand ready to assist in supporting such efforts to address gun violence and improve the health and well-being of our patients.