Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees:

March is the midway point for our Section’s Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere (PAVE) advocacy campaign. Over the past 6 months, pediatricians in training have engaged in multiple advocacy efforts at the clinic, community, state, and federal levels. You have partnered with colleagues, local schools, and state chapters to create progress by promoting firearm injury prevention policies and strategies. Your dedication to advocate to keep children safe is impressive and appreciated. For the remainder of the campaign, we look forward to following the work of our members and pediatricians everywhere, as we continue to PAVE the way to firearm injury prevention together.

The March edition of the AAP SOMSRFT PAVE advocacy update features an update from the Division of State Government Affairs, a message by Ashley Miller, MD, FAAP, chair of the AAP Section on Young Physicians, and the Advocate in Minutes provides social media tips to augment your advocacy efforts.

State Advocacy Update from the Division of State Government Affairs

Partners and Progress

Pediatricians can speak authoritatively about the devastating effect that gun injuries and violence have on the lives of children and through their AAP chapters, they can serve as valuable coalition partners to promote state and local gun violence and injury prevention policies.

The AAP Division of State Government Affairs has worked closely with these national organizations to coordinate state legislative efforts and connect AAP chapters with the groups’ state affiliates:

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was founded the day after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012. The group quickly grew to become one of the largest gun violence prevention grassroots organizations in the country and caught the attention of national media outlets because of their use of social media to coordinate large-scale rallies, legislator calls, and boycotts of corporations that do not prohibit guns on their premises. Pediatricians and parents are natural allies. In addition to federal, state, and local advocacy campaigns, Moms Demand Action also focuses on corporate responsibility campaigns that let parents know their businesses are safe environments for children. Follow them on twitter.
The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence has been active in gun violence prevention for almost 40 years. Formerly known as the National Council to Control Handguns, the organization was renamed in honor of James Brady, President Ronald Reagan’s Press Secretary, who was shot during an assassination attempt on Reagan’s life. The Academy has worked with the Brady Center for over 20 years on gun injury and violence prevention efforts. The Brady Center has chapters in 21 states.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) was founded by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino in response to the flow of illegal guns flowing into the 2 cities. Since launching in 2006, the organization has expanded to include more than 850 mayors in 44 states. The organization is engaged in federal and state and local level advocacy efforts and work on many issues related to gun violence prevention in addition to illegal gun trafficking.

For more information on connecting your state chapter’s advocacy efforts with these or other potential partners, please contact Katie Crumley in the AAP Division of State Government Affairs at kcrumley@aap.org or at 847-434-7399.

State Legislative Update

Heading into March, most state legislatures are in full swing and the AAP Division of State Government Affairs staff members are tracking hundreds of bills that both strengthen and weaken current gun safety laws. A few states are expected to strengthen their state gun legislation this year.

See what lawmakers in your state are considering by checking our StateTrack profiles on the following issues.

**Assault Weapons Bans–StateTrack Profile**

Most state bills this year to ban assault weapons are modeled after the provisions of the federal assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004, and prohibit the sale of semiautomatic versions of military-style weapons. Many of these bills also prohibit the sale and/or possession of detachable ammunition magazines with a capacity greater than 10 rounds. In 2013, Connecticut, Maryland, and New York passed bills that banned high capacity magazine ammunition sales and expanded their states’ existing assault weapons bans to include more weapons.

**Physician Firearm Safety Counseling Restrictions–StateTrack Profile**

A 2011 Florida law restricting physician counseling on gun safety practices has been blocked from enforcement, but this injunction was challenged in federal appeals court. A decision in this case is expected before July. So far in 2014, bills have been introduced that restrict physician counseling on firearm safety, restrict gun ownership information from inclusion within the
medical record, and prohibit physicians or health care facilities from dismissing a patient that refuses to answer questions about firearm ownership status.

**Safe Storage Laws–StateTrack Profile**

The first Child Access Prevention (CAP) law, which required that all guns be stored locked and away from children was passed in Florida in 1989. Since that time, 17 other states have followed suit. 2013 brought a resurgence of state laws requiring safe storage practice. Last fall, California became the first state that required that all guns be stored safely from any person known to be legally prohibited to purchase a firearm themselves.

**Universal Background Checks–StateTrack Profile**

Current federal law requires criminal background checks on prospective gun buyers by licensed firearm dealers. However, only 60% of all gun sales are conducted through licensed firearm dealers, and 33 states have no or very few restrictions on firearm sales through gun shows, flea markets, and the Internet. Currently, only 13 states fully participate in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Universal background check laws help close this “gun show loophole” by requiring that all gun sales take place within federally licensed gun dealers.

**Guns in School –StateTrack Profile**

The division is also tracking bills that would require schools to loosen their zero tolerance policies in relation to toy guns and other gun-related paraphernalia. These bills, known as “Pop Tart bills”, would prohibit school administrators from disciplining children for simulating guns, playing with toy guns, or wearing clothes that depict firearms. The measure got its name from reports of a Maryland 7-year-old who was suspended from school last year for chewing his Pop Tart into the shape of a gun. So far this year, bills have been introduced in Florida and Maryland.

**AAP Division of State Government Affairs State Advocacy Focus Resources**

The Division of State Government Affairs has put together 3 State AdvocacyFOCUS resources on gun violence prevention to aid AAP chapter and member advocacy efforts.

- Assault Weapons Bans
- Safe Storage Laws
- Universal Background Checks

Please contact Katie Crumley in the AAP Division of State Government Affairs at kcrumley@aap.org or 847-434-7399 for more information or consultation.
A Message from the SOYP Chair: Dr. Ashley Miller

Dear SOMSRFT members:

The American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Young Physicians (SOYP) is very excited to partner with you on your current advocacy campaign PAVE. The SOYP is striving to be the professional home for career and personal development for pediatricians early in their career. Many of us young physicians (YPs) were SMRFs first and now that we are YPs without the help of SOMSRFT we struggle to find ways to participate in advocacy. We would like to continue to advocate at local and national levels. We have all seen families and communities affected by gun violence; this drives our passion to advocate for firearm injury prevention. We feel strongly about educating families on child health and safety. Every year your advocacy campaign reminds us that we can all become advocates whether we choose to do so in our local communities or grow our campaign efforts to be active on a national level. Choosing how active we want to be is one of the beauties of advocacy. Every voice counts, in our offices, at the state house, and on social media. We appreciate all the time and thoughtfulness you have put into creating the PAVE campaign. This topic is time sensitive with the anniversary of the Sandy Hook and many other shootings still on our minds. We look forward to helping you spread the word, and join you in putting kids first.

- Ashley Miller, MD, FAAP
  New London Pediatric Care Center
  Chair, AAP Section on Young Physicians

ADVOCATE FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN MINUTES

For the fourth edition of ADVOCATE FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN MINUTES, we wanted to focus on using social media for advocacy. As a reminder, each month your PAVE advocacy is providing medical students, residents, and fellows with concrete strategies to advocate for firearm violence prevention which avoid the barriers that often prevent us from
advocating (i.e. time and resources). This month, we ask you to join in the social media conversation:

1. Change your profile picture(s) to the PAVE logo
2. Share at least one message or fact each week on social media that promotes firearm injury prevention, view our attached social media document to help guide your efforts

That is it! Lastly, we would love to hear from those using our ADVOCATE FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN MINUTES. Please DON’T BE SHY and write to us (Christian.pulcini@gmail.com) so we can highlight your efforts in the next PAVE advocacy update! Thank you for all that you do!

PAVE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The success of any advocacy campaign comes from grassroots support and efforts. The work happening in clinics, communities, medical schools, residency and fellowship programs across the country is impressive and appreciated. We want to know what is going on at your school and program! In an effort to share ideas, we will be placing the “spotlight” on a different project each month.

March’s spotlight takes us to District VII and was shared in a tweet by District VII assistant district coordinator, Dr. Lauren Gambill.

Lauren Gambill (@renkate): 2/25/14, 1:59 PM: Super excited for TX ped society's legislative advocacy day! #PAVE is on the agenda! @AAPSOMSRFT txpeds.org/2014-tps-resid...

The Texas Pediatric Society (TPS), the TX Chapter of the AAP, and the Children’s Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) invites all Medical Students, Residents, and Fellows from across Texas to join in a unique advocacy experience on March 25th.

The purpose of the event is to engage the next generation of pediatricians in the legislative process by providing the knowledge, skills, and opportunity necessary to successfully advocate on behalf of your patients and the profession of medicine. The event is free for TPS Members and includes:

- A keynote address from a member of the Texas Legislature
- An orientation to effective advocacy
- A recap of the 2013 Texas Legislative Session
- Information on efforts at the national level from the AAP Resident Section- Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere
- Discussion on major issues facing pediatricians and children
- A visit to the Texas Capitol to share thoughts and priorities with lawmakers and key legislative staff.
WHERE AND WHEN:
Texas Medical Association Building
Thompson Auditorium (1st Floor)
401 W. 15th St.
Austin, TX 78701
March 25, 2014
10:30 am - 4:00 pm

POETRY FOR PREVENTION

We will continue to feature a poetry piece in each of our monthly PAVE advocacy updates, share pieces on SOMRFT’s social media accounts, and among other platforms showcase submissions our website.

We are accepting submissions for poems written by you, pediatricians in training. The poem must have a firearm injury or gun violence prevention focus, but is otherwise open to your own creativity. Feel free to submit a poem in any format and creativity is encouraged: free verse, haiku, limerick (appropriate for pediatric advocate audiences of course), sonnet, etc. Please send your entries to PAVE Tri-Chair, Lisa Costello at costello.lisa@gmail.com

With a midpoint recap, this month’s poetry is brought to you by the PAVE advocacy team

Six months ago we started to PAVE the way
Pediatricians of all ages continue to advocate each day
Working to bring to everyone's attention
The public health need for firearm injury prevention

Violence and injury from guns profoundly affects kids
Each year it causes more death in youth than cancer or SIDS
All kids deserve to be safe, where they live, learn, and play
By treating those impacted we have much to say

Through op-eds, videos, social media, and education
The voices of pediatricians fill our nation
Advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels will continue
Pediatricians are motivated no matter the venue

Prevention is at the core of our profession
Firearm injury is preventable without question
Keeping kids safe is something we hold most dear
We remain Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere

WHAT WE’RE READING, TWEETING, & WATCHING
• Letter to Editor in USA Today by Jonathan Lowy, director, Legal Action Project, Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence about the importance of background checks

• Article on Forbes.com: Facebook and Instagram Introduce New Rules To Stem Illegal Gun Sales Online

• AAP SOMSRFT (@AAPSOMSRFT): 2/28/14, 6:49 PM: It’s been 20 years since the Brady bill passed. Here are 11 ways gun politics have changed. wapo.st/1gGwbuH #PAVE

• Nerissa Bauer (@NerissaBauer): 3/4/14, 12:12 AM: Parents need to ask about guns in the home before play date! This can help! @AmerAcadPeds @AAPSOMSRFT putkids1st pic.twitter.com/fy1dkfjQCM

• In this video, Renée Jenkins, MD, FAAP, AAP Past President and Professor of Pediatrics at Howard University in Washington, DC, describes the importance of advocating to protect children from gun violence.

Thank you for your dedicated advocacy efforts over the past six months. There is still work to be done; we will continue to PAVE the way to firearm injury prevention, as we remain Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere.

#Forkids

Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere Advocacy Team

Thanks:
Thank you Katie Crumley and the AAP Division of State Government Affairs for keeping up updated on firearm injury and gun violence advocacy at the State level.

Thank you Dr. Ashley Miller, chair of the AAP Committee on State Government Affairs for her outreach and support of our Section’s advocacy efforts and for all she does to advocate for children.