

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

July 27, 2016

Ms. Janet Napolitano
President, University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Support for UC Davis Medical School to be established as a Firearm Violence Research Center

Dear President Napolitano:

I write to express my strong support for the new University of California Firearm Violence Research Center to be housed at the U.C. Davis Medical School campus in Sacramento.

I applaud the State of California for making \$5 million available over the next five years to establish a firearms research center. This funding can best be leveraged by an institution which is already conducting research on the harmful effects of gun violence, and the U.C. Davis Violence Prevention Research Program has a strong track record in this regard. Specifically, U.C. Davis researchers Dr. Garen Wintemute and Dr. Magdalena Cerdá, both of whom are already affiliated with the U.C. Davis Violence Prevention Research Program, are leaders and pioneers in the field of firearm research. I am personally acquainted with their work, having recently called upon them to participate in an online forum to discuss their research on, and evidence-based solutions to, firearm violence.

As you know, current law bans the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from using federal dollars for firearm injury research. With the creation of a center for firearm research in California, our state has the opportunity lead the nation in research on gun violence and to address a striking hole in our understanding of why so many Americans die from gun-related injuries. The United States experiences over 32,000 deaths per year as a result of gun violence; the more data and research we have readily available, the better chance we have of preventing future gun fatalities.

The recent spate of firearm violence in our country has shaken us to our core, and we need to do more to prevent similar horrific events from occurring in the future. I fully support the U.C. Davis Medical School as the newly-established home of the U.C. Firearm Violence Research Center.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Lois Wolk, California State Senator