



American Academy of Pediatrics
Orange County Chapter
INCORPORATED IN CALIFORNIA

Gun Violence Prevention from the AAP-OC Board of Directors

The horrific mass murder of children and their teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on May 25, 2022 is yet another call to action for us as pediatricians, parents, and grandparents to take an active role in protecting children.

In the last month, we have witnessed mass shootings across the country, including one right here in Orange County. And there were eight more mass shootings in America over Memorial Day weekend.

To the survivor families and communities impacted by these mass shootings, we express our shock and grief knowing they will never be the same.

We pledge to join our colleagues across the county to redouble our advocacy for impactful interventions, regulations and laws that will decrease all violence, including firearms deaths and injuries. We must ensure that our patients and our communities are informed of the impact of violence in all its forms, especially firearm violence: homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury.

Regarding firearm violence, California ranks first in terms of having the strongest gun violence prevention laws in the nation. Our state has implemented innovative legislative strategies, such as consumer safety standards, microstamping technology to enhance tracing of guns, and no special immunity for the gun industry. California is only one of seven states that prohibits the purchase and possession of assault weapons. However, there is clearly more to do for common-sense gun reforms. Our AAP-CA State Government Affairs (SGA) committee is advocating for stronger laws during the current legislative agenda as our national AAP Advocacy committee works at the federal level.

AAP-OC Chapter is developing specific action items to address the progressive gun violence. We are working with National AAP as well as AAP-CA on advocating for national and state legislation. We are collaborating with our medical associations and partners, including the California and Orange County Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians – Orange County, the OC Health Care Agency, CHOC, and UC Irvine to move quickly and achieve evidence-based policy changes, while promoting a well-funded research agenda. If you are interested in becoming involved in this task force, please email [Jamie McDonald](#), Executive Director, AAP-OC.



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We also encourage you to join us in participating in [Wear Orange June 3-5](#) weekend. The Wear Orange Campaign honors thousands of people who are killed or injured as a result of gun violence. You will find more information about this, as well as many resources on our [AAP-OC Chapter web page](#) devoted to gun violence prevention.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Sincerely,

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