



**CHELSEA HEALTH CENTER**

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May 28, 2014

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians  
Executive Committee  
2164 Commons Parkway  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Leaders and Fellow Members of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians:

I am writing to offer my most enthusiastic support and encouragement for the endorsement of the proposed resolutions regarding gun violence in our community, which is a disease of unprecedented proportions. I firmly believe that the MAFP should take the steps as a way of aligning our internal policies, as well as aligning ourselves with the other professional organizations that have made strong statements with regards to the safety of our patients relative to gun violence. We must add our voice to the increasing call for efforts on a statewide and national basis to assure greater gun safety.

My 36 year career as a family physician has sadly exposed me to the devastation that can result from easy and impulsive access to firearms in human interactions. From the loss of a clinic staff member who was killed by an angry spouse to the suicide attempt of a young man who was my patient who nearly succeeded in self-inflicted gunshot death while depressed and using alcohol the risks of inaction are apparent. Taking professional steps to minimize possibilities of gun violence for our patients is as important as preventing cancer, diabetes, obesity, and other life-threatening public health issues. It is incumbent upon our health care organization to speak out loudly and strongly about the threat of gun violence to our patients and to encourage better understanding of ways we can curb such violence in the decades to come.

I might also mention from a personal note as a father and grandfather, I am particularly aware of the evidence that despite efforts by gun owners to limit access by children in their homes as many as one-third of those young people polled admitted to gaining access secretly to such weapons. It appears as though much more effort is needed in order to keep our children and grandchildren safe from gun violence, our emotionally unstable patients safe from self-inflicted gun trauma, and innocent people at work and play safe from random gun violence.

I offer my most vigorous encouragement for the adoption of these resolutions by the MAFP. I believe they reflect a small step in the right direction toward providing a more healthy and safe environment in which our patients and our families can thrive for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James F. Peggs MD'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James F. Peggs, M.D.

Professor

Associate Chair

Department of Family Medicine