

Brady Supports Dedicated Federal Funding for Gun Violence Prevention Research

For far too long, Congress has interfered with scientists' ability to conduct independent research using a public health approach to identify comprehensive, preventive solutions to gun violence. The funding and authority for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other research institutions **must not** continue to be subject to the special interests of the corporate gun lobby, nor to the continued dramatic "chilling effect" of yearly Appropriations gun rider language like the Dickey Amendment.

What Is the Dickey Amendment?

In 1996, Congress passed the so-called Dickey Amendment as a rider to the Labor-Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, which said that the CDC could not fund research that would "advocate or promote gun control," and that language has remained as a rider for 20 years. Congress also cut CDC funding for gun violence prevention research that same year.

Is the Dickey Amendment a Ban on GVP Research?

No, but it continues to have a "chilling effect" on research into gun violence and has discouraged a generation of researchers from entering the field into this critical area. While funding was originally cut, it was restored to CDC the following year, though never specifically for gun violence prevention. A September 2017 report from GAO confirmed from CDC officials the impact of the Dickey Amendment, stating, "[CDC] interpreted it as a prohibition of activities related to gun control advocacy, but not as a restriction of activities that supported firearm injury-related data collection and scientific research. However...[CDC] limited its firearm research over time because, in 1997, its budget was reduced by an amount equal to what the agency had spent on such research, and because it learned that further reductions were possible if the research continued."

The GAO report further stated that research on firearms receives disproportionately low funding and has fewer publications compared to other causes of death. "There are a comparable number of sepsis death and firearm related deaths annually...however, funding for firearm research was about .7 percent of that for sepsis and the volume of publications was about 4 percent of that for sepsis."

Current Legislation to Fund GVP Research

The CDC distributes over \$11 billion in research funding annually, and is uniquely positioned to help stem the tide of gun-related deaths and injuries. Specifically, CDC studies are needed to improve our understanding of gun incidents, identify the sources of firearms, and evaluate gun storage methods. Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12) introduced H.R. 1832; and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced S. 834, identical companion bills to authorize appropriations of \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018-2023 to CDC for firearms safety & gun violence prevention research. Additionally, Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL-7) introduced H.R. 1478 to remove the Dickey Amendment from the current appropriations bill.

We oppose any gun riders on Appropriations bills that limit scientific research to realize solutions to the epidemic of gun violence in America.

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Even former Rep. Jay Dickey (R-AR) thinks the Dickey Amendment should be eliminated, he states, "somehow or someday we should fund gun research until a solution is reached. Doing nothing is no longer an acceptable solution."

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To Prevent Gun Violence