



P.A.V.E the way to Firearm Injury Prevention Pediatricians Against Violence Everywhere



DATE

Dear [School Administrator's Name],

My name is [name] and I am a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees (SOMSRFT). The AAP is “dedicated to the health of all children.” A professional organization for primary care and subspecialty pediatricians across the nation, the AAP strives to educate its members and the public on important child health issues while advocating on local, state, and national levels for children, adolescents, and young adults. This year AAP SOMSRFT members have united to **P.A.V.E. the way to Firearm Injury Prevention.**

As part of our yearlong advocacy project, we are attempting to raise awareness about the public health issue of gun violence by providing firearm injury prevention education. I am contacting you to inquire if my [residency program/medical school] could give a student centered presentation on firearm injury prevention at your school? This interactive discussion led by pediatric residents and medical students will cover basics facts and strategies of firearm injury prevention.

Fast Facts:

- Firearm violence is a leading cause of death among American youth¹
- Most injuries occur when children discover loaded guns at home²
- 33% of U.S. households contain a gun, and half of them don't lock them up³
- Every other day, a child under 10 years old is killed or disabled with a gun²
- A gun in the home triples the risk of homicide and increases the risk of suicide five times⁴

Topics for Student Education

- Firearm injury statistics
- What to do if you find a gun
- What to do if a friend wants to show you his/her parent's firearm
- How to speak up if someone at school talks about having a gun at home or bringing a gun to school
- Why guns should be locked and stored out of reach

We look forward to hearing from you regarding collaboration on this important child health topic. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please contact [name] and [phone] or [email] with any questions, to discuss potential topics, or arrange scheduling.

For Kids,
SIGNATURE & NAME

References:

1. Injury Mortality Reports, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC, 2010; 2011
2. "CDF's 2013 Gun Report." *Protect Children Not Guns 2013*. Children's Defense Fund, 24 July 2013. Web. Sept. 2013.
3. Johnson, R. "Firearm Ownership and Storage Practices, U.S. Households, 1992?2002A Systematic Review." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 27.2 (2004): 173-82.
4. Kellermann, Arthur L., Grant Somes, Frederick P. Rivara, Roberta K. Lee, and Joyce G. Banton. "Injuries and Deaths Due to Firearms in the Home." *The Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* 45.2 (1998): 263-67.