



On behalf of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, its Board of Managers wishes to express our deepest sympathy to the families affected by the senseless violence in Parkland, Florida. As trauma surgeons, we see this pain and suffering on a daily basis, and we abhor the indiscriminate use of firearms for conflict resolution. Trauma remains the leading cause of death for Americans up to age 45 years. Firearms account for over 38,000 deaths and 85,000 nonfatal injuries annually in the United States. We stand by our 2016 Statement on Firearm Injuries (J Trauma Acute Care Surg, vol.80 number 6 p.849) which calls for research, better reporting and advocacy. We must find a way, as a civilized nation, to come together and stand on common ground to create a safer America for our people. We implore all branches of the government and professional organizations to work together arduously to develop and employ specific actions that stem the tide of escalating violence. While this issue continues to divide us as a nation, we can all agree that the carnage must stop. Now is the time to identify cogent solutions that protect our second amendment rights AND eliminate senseless gun violence. How many more of our people must die? How many more children must we lose?