



American Association for the Surgery of Trauma

On behalf of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), its Board of Managers wishes to express our deepest sympathy for the families impacted by the senseless violence in Newtown, Connecticut. As trauma surgeons, we are all too often called upon to provide care for victims of gun violence and see gun-related death, pain and suffering on a daily basis. Firearms kill over 30,000 Americans each year and injure another 75,000. The ease of obtaining military-style weaponry in many parts of our country is appalling. In an effort to begin to reduce the lethality of firearm violence, the AAST strongly supports the adoption of meaningful legislation that will act to severely restrict the availability and use of all military-style firearms and ammunition, and provide more effective safeguards for the acquisition and use of firearms in general. While not definitive, these actions are a start towards increasing the safety of our society for ourselves and for our children.