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Michael J. Dowling  
President and CEO  
Northwell Health

Dear Mr. Dowling:

We are in receipt of your email on gun violence that was sent to Northwell Health employees. As president and president-elect of the Medical Society of the State of New York, we are compelled to respond to your request as leaders of our organization to help stop gun violence in this country. We believe our efforts with preparedness, education, and advocacy are similarly aligned and would welcome the opportunity to work with other health care leaders to help develop an action plan in the coming year.

The Medical Society of the State of New York supports legislation that requires a waiting period and background checks prior to the purchase of all firearms, including the person-to-person transfer, internet sales, and interstate transactions for all firearms. MSSNY supports legislation that blocks the sale of any device or modification, including but not limited to bump stocks, which convert a firearm into a weapon that mimics fully-automatic operation. MSSNY also supports legislation that would ban the sale and/or ownership of high-capacity magazines or clips and high-speed, high-destruction rounds. MSSNY believes that gun violence in the United States is a public health crisis and supports federal efforts to reverse the ban that prohibits the Center for Disease Control from researching gun-related injuries, deaths, and suicides related to this violence.

MSSNY also offers continuing medical education and preparedness programs for all New York State physicians free of charge through its MSSNY on-line website: <https://cme.mssny.org/>. This site includes course such as "The Impact of a Shooter/Bomber on a HealthCare Team"; "Triage in A Disaster"; "The Importance of Resilience After a Disaster"; and a "Physician's Toolkit for Emergencies".

We would welcome the opportunity to partner with your team at Northwell Health and with other health care associations and would appreciate an invitation to this conference on gun violence slated for December 12 in Manhattan. We agree that bringing key health care leaders to this discussion may be extremely effective.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Arthur Fougner, MD  
MSSNY President  
Chief, Gynecologic Ultrasound at Northwell Health.

Bonnie Litvack, MD  
MSSNY President-Elect  
Director of Women's Imaging, Northern Westchester Hospital  
Northwell Health.