

Pediatric Trauma Society

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May 17, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

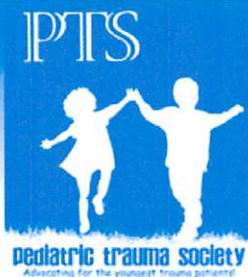
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Steven Dettelbach Esq. to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Pediatric Trauma Society (PTS) is an organization of healthcare professionals dedicated to the care of the injured child. Our members come from communities across the nation and represent all aspects of care (pre-hospital, nursing, physician, emergency departments, ICUs, operating rooms). Prevention of injury is our goal, and the care of the injured child is our reality and our passion. Following the mass shooting incident in Parkland, Florida claiming the lives of 17 adults and children, the PTS issued a Gun Violence Position Statement reiterating our commitment to serve as the "voice" for the injured child. In addition, we urged that *regardless of one's political beliefs or stance on the firearm safety issue, it is time for everyone to come together and stand on common ground to create a safer America for our children.* In the years since the Parkland shooting, we have seen further escalation in firearm violence to the point that firearm injuries have now surpassed motor vehicle-related injuries as the leading cause of death in American youth (ages <1-19 years). Firearm injuries should be an imminently preventable source of injury in children. Our organization believes mitigating injury from all sources is imperative, but the escalation in gun violence serves as reminder that there is much

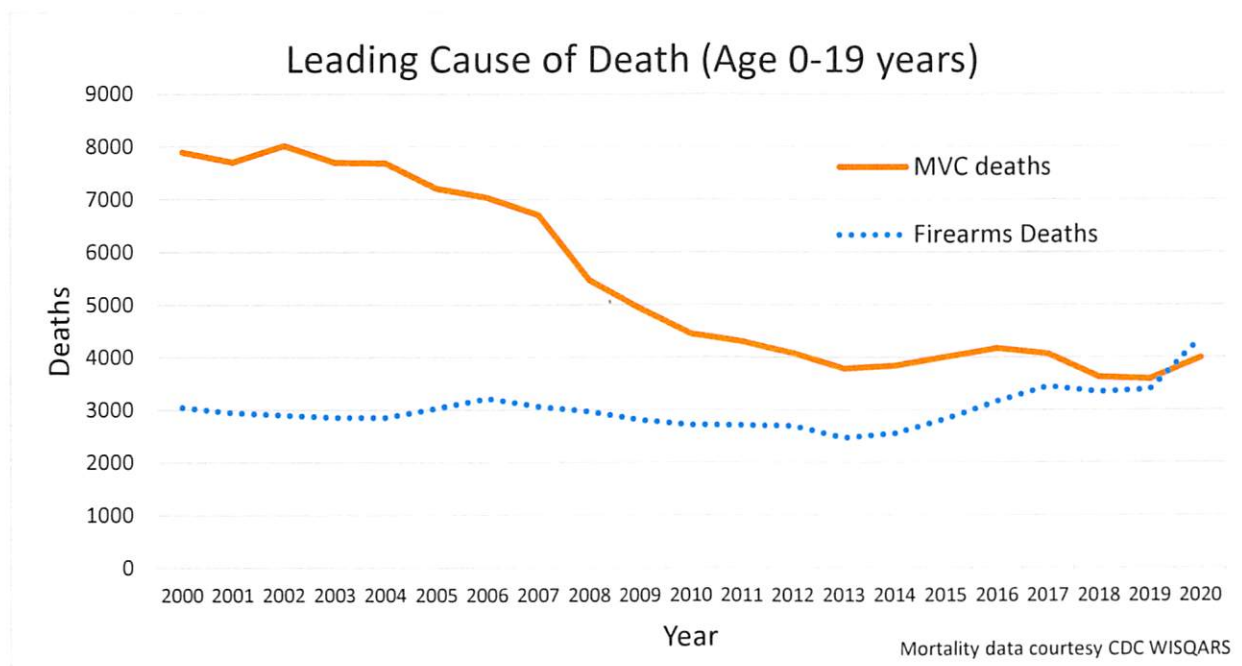


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work to be done. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is charged with reducing the risk to public safety caused by criminal possession and

use of firearms and illegal firearms trafficking. However, the ATF has had only one senate-confirmed director since 2006. This lack of stable leadership undoubtedly lessens the effectiveness of the Bureau to fulfill its safety mandate. The senate is set to vote on the confirmation of the President's nominee to serve as the Permanent Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. While we do not possess the machinery to vet an individual candidate, the current nominee, Steven Dettelbach, has received broad support from the law enforcement community (International Association of Chiefs of Police, Women in Federal Law Enforcement, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association) as well as Mayors across the nation.

As an organization, the Pediatric Trauma Society supports the confirmation of a Permanent Director so that the business of the Bureau can move forward in earnest, including efforts to reduce the burden of firearms injury in our most vulnerable of populations – our children.



Sincerely yours,

Michael L. Nance, MD
President, Pediatric Trauma Society

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