

# New York State Bar Association



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Re: Repeal Dickey Amendment

I am writing to urge repeal of the laws that prevent federal agencies from collecting data and information relating to the use of guns in our country.

Earlier this year, the State Bar Association's policy-making body, the House of Delegates, approved a report of the Association's Task Force on Gun Violence, which was written to serve as a non-partisan resource on the Second Amendment and its implications. A copy of the report may be viewed at the following link:  
<http://www.nysba.org/GunViolence>

The report discusses the current funding and programmatic restrictions that effectively keep the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") and other federal agencies from undertaking research relating to firearm violence and interfere with federal agencies sharing information about gun violence.

The Association believes that it is essential that there be non-partisan, scientific inquiry to analyze, assess and provide information on the causes and trends of gun violence in America. We submit that the collection and distillation of this evidence is necessary for lawmakers and the public to make informed judgments about this topic. Only by having hard data on the causes of firearm violence can we expect informed policies and laws intended to reduce gun violence and make our country safer. It is hard to see any good argument against simply collecting data and information.

PL 104-208 -- the "Dickey Amendment" -- states, "that none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control." Without funding, the CDC was effectively forced to withdraw from the field of firearms research.

I respectfully request that you take all appropriate steps to repeal the Dickey Amendment, thereby taking the first step toward permitting informed discussion and decision-making.

Sincerely,

David P. Miranda