

## FROM KATHERINE B. MCGUIRE, APA CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER

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### In this issue:

- **Speaking with Members of Congress About Gun Violence Prevention**
- **Supporting Legislation to Decrease Suicide Deaths Among Farmers and Ranchers**
- **Partnering with the National Latinx Psychological Association**
- **Securing Key Priorities Legislation that Supports Graduate Students**
- **Advocating for Psychological Pain Management and Opioid Use Disorder Services**

### Speaking with Members of Congress About Gun Violence Prevention

APA CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, spoke at an invitation-only roundtable on the need for Congress to take a public health approach to gun violence prevention. Sixteen members of Congress attended the roundtable, which was convened by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.). Other participants included representatives from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Surgeons and the American Public Health Association. Dr. Evans' remarks centered on the need for Congress to fund dedicated gun violence prevention research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. He also highlighted a [recent APA survey](#) that found that one-third of U.S. adults say that their fear of mass shootings prevents them from going to certain places or events.



For more information, contact Ben Vonachen, MA, at [bvonachen@apa.org](mailto:bvonachen@apa.org).

### Supporting Legislation to Decrease Suicide Deaths Among Farmers and Ranchers

APA endorsed a new bipartisan bill introduced this week by Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the only farmers serving in the U.S. Senate. The Seeding Rural Resilience Act aims to curb the rising suicide rate among farmers and ranchers by increasing access to mental health resources and services available through the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture. In consultation with APA's Committee on Rural Health, APA is providing recommendations on how the administration can work more effectively with public and private sector stakeholders on this issue and will support companion legislation as it emerges in the House of Representatives.

For more information, contact Heather O'Beirne Kelly, PhD, at [hkelly@apa.org](mailto:hkelly@apa.org).

### Partnering with the National Latinx Psychological Association

As part of its work to support all minority groups, APA is a proud sponsor of the 2019 National Latinx Psychological Association (NLPA) annual conference being held in Miami Oct. 17–20. APA has worked with the organization for years to highlight immigration and other work that is important to the Latinx community. At the conference, APA will represent and share the work it has conducted on diversity initiatives, including immigration, and continue to partner and support the work of the NLPA.

For more information, contact Serena Dávila, JD, at [sdavila@apa.org](mailto:sdavila@apa.org).

### **Securing Key Priorities in Higher Education Legislation**

The [College Affordability Act](#) (H.R. 4674) introduced by the House Education and Labor Committee includes many provisions APA has advocated for, including support for student loan and repayment options for graduate students, expansion of critical student financial assistance programs, protection of Public Service Loan Forgiveness and teacher preparation programs. The bill—which would be a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)—also seeks to address campus safety and sexual assault, support colleges students with disabilities and reduce food insecurity on college campuses. APA will continue to monitor any changes made to the bill as it moves through the legislative process. **Related news:** Join us on Thursday, Oct. 24 for a [special APA online advocacy event](#) to ensure campus sexual assault prevention efforts are part of the HEA reauthorization.

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### **Advocating for Psychological Pain Management and Opioid Use Disorder Services**

As part of its continuing work to help prevent and treat opioid disorders, APA [submitted recommendations](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which is developing an opioid treatment and pain management action plan for Congress as required by the SUPPORT Act (Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act). In its comments, APA recommended that CMS avoid broad reimbursement rate cuts for psychological services under Medicare and issue guidance to state Medicaid agencies and Medicare carriers to encourage greater coverage of psychological pain management services. APA also called for the establishment of effective reimbursement rates for opioid use disorder treatment services under Medicare.

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