

March 18, 1999

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCarthy:

The American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM), representing over 115,000 internal medicine physicians and medical students, is very much concerned about preventing deaths and injuries caused by firearms and applauds your efforts to restrict access to guns by children. As the nation's largest medical specialty society, our membership includes physicians who are directly involved in patient care, medical education, and medical research. Physicians overwhelmingly agree that firearm violence is a major public health issue and favor stricter laws on the sale of guns.

The College believes that handguns should not be sold to minors and that all firearms should incorporate safety features to make them as child-proof as possible. We also support strong penalties and criminal prosecution for those who sell guns illegally. The College, therefore, supports the provisions in the bill that will make it more difficult for children under the age of 21 to purchase handguns, require firearm manufacturers to install child-safety locks, and increases penalties for illegal gun sales.

The ACP-ASIM would be pleased to be recorded as a supporter of the Gun Violence Prevention Act. Thank you for you for sponsoring this legislation.

Sincerely,

Walter J. McDonald, MD, FACP
Executive Vice President