



July 31, 2018

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to stop the release of downloadable files that will allow individuals, including convicted felons, domestic abusers and terrorists, to make untraceable firearms on commercially available 3D printers. We believe that this issue represents an urgent public health threat and immediate action is needed to ensure the safety of all Americans.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

Deaths and injuries are a daily occurrence in the United States. In 2016, more than 38,000 Americans lost their lives to firearms, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; another 81,000 each year on average suffer nonfatal (yet often devastating) injuries from firearms. As an organization representing physicians who have first-hand experience with the devastating impact on the health of their patients resulting from firearms-related injuries and deaths, we have a responsibility to be part of the solution in trying to mitigate firearms-related tragedies.

ACP supports appropriate regulation of the purchase of firearms to reduce firearms-related injuries and deaths including satisfactory completion of a background check in order to block firearm possession by individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others. Downloadable firearms will undermine those laws, enabling anyone to print their own untraceable gun with commercially available 3D printing technology. We urge you to block this deadly information from being published online.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ana Maria Lopez'.

Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, FACP
President