

May 26, 2021

Ms. Kay Beisse, Chair  
Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Foundation  
4111 E Madison St #153  
Seattle, WA 98112  
[gagvorganization@gmail.com](mailto:gagvorganization@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Kay Beisse and The Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Foundation,

I am writing on behalf of The Washington State PTA in support of Ms. Taylor Ryan and Dr. Jennifer Stuber's proposed research project, *Thunderstorm in My Brain*, that aims to adapt and enhance an evidence-informed suicide prevention training for parents/caregivers. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for young people in our state and nationally, and we lose a young person nearly every other day to suicide in Washington state. As part of our mission to advocate for the well-being of all children, Washington State PTA supports research and funding regarding implementation of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs for youth suicide prevention, including the reduction of access to lethal methods such as firearms and drugs. <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WSPTA-Resolution-2.13-Youth-Suicide-Prevention-2019.pdf>

In fact, prevention of youth suicide is a top five supported legislative issue for this biennium. <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-21-Legislative-Priorities-Oct2020.pdf>

Washington State PTA supports funding for community-based prevention strategies and school-based mental health supports, and we encourage school districts to educate their communities about safe firearm storage. We appreciate that this proposal is intended to give parents and caregivers the tools they need to reduce suicide risk within their own homes.

The work proposed here will provide valuable information about how districts can partner with PTAs to provide parent/caregiver training across Washington State. We would look forward to sharing results of this program with legislators and other districts across the state.

This letter acknowledges our support of Ms. Ryan and Dr. Stuber's proposed study. We look forward to working together on youth suicide prevention.

Sincerely,



Janice Kutzera  
President, Washington State PTA