The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) is calling on US federal legislators to urgently pass five gun safety measures to reduce the number of people killed or injured from gun violence.

Every year 100,000 people are shot in the United States. Over 30,000 individuals die and 70,000 are injured, many are left with a permanent disability. The cost to them and their families is incalculable.

This is a public health crisis which came to the forefront once again through the mass murder of innocent civilians in El Paso, Texas and in Dayton, Ohio. This massive loss of life will continue until legislation is passed to implement gun safety measures. With 4.43 deaths/100,000 people (2017) the US has, by far, the highest level of gun violence in the developed world according to the Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation http://www.healthdata.org/

To reduce the CUGH is calling on legislators to pass laws that will do the following:

- Require thorough background checks on all new gun purchases including those from private sellers
- Institute a minimum 28 day waiting period from the time a background check application is made before a person can purchase a gun.
- Limit the sale and possession of ammunition magazines to 10 rounds for handguns and 5 rounds for semi-automatic weapons.
- Ban the possession and sale of armor-piercing bullets. Only members of the military and law enforcement are exempt.

CUGH is calling on the public to affect change by making gun control a signature issue in the 2020 federal election. Voters can support candidates who will vote for effective gun control measures. Healthcare workers, who see up close the devastating effects of gun violence, have a particular opportunity to inform their patients about the importance of voting for candidates who will vote for gun safety legislation. CUGH is calling on the global health community to stand together and support candidates who will prioritize public safety and vote for gun control.

For further information, contact Dr. Keith Martin, Executive Director, Consortium of Universities for Global Health (www.cugh.org), Washington, DC via executivedirector@cugh.org or (202)974-6363.