



## AAP Headquarters

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## Reply to

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July 27, 2018

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

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
U.S. Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Attorney General Sessions:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, **I write to ask you to immediately prohibit access to schematic designs that enable 3-D printing of untraceable guns.** We are deeply disturbed by news reports of a settlement between the State Department and an organization which seeks – as early as next week – to make “blueprints” accessible online that will allow anyone with a 3-D printer to create a firearm made from plastic, but which is still capable of inflicting deadly harm. Under this decision, an individual will be able to print their own firearm with a commercially available 3-D printer, with no need to go through a criminal background check.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), every day in the U.S., 78 children, teens, and young adults are injured or killed by guns. In 2015, suicide was the second leading cause of death for children aged 10 to 17. For children in this age group, firearms accounted for over 40% of all suicides. Firearms are a highly lethal method of suicide, with a mortality rate around 90 percent. Firearm-related deaths are the third leading cause of death overall among US children aged 1 to 17 years, surpassing the number of deaths from pediatric congenital anomalies, heart disease, influenza and/or pneumonia, chronic lower respiratory disease, and cerebrovascular causes. These are alarming and completely unacceptable statistics, and increased access to firearms could mean even more deaths and injuries. This decision is contrary to the interest of children’s health.

We urge you in the strongest terms to immediately stop the public from accessing materials that will allow for the 3-D printing of guns.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ami Gadhia at AAP at 202/347-8600 or [agadhia@aap.org](mailto:agadhia@aap.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen A. Kraft". The signature is enclosed in a thin, light-colored rectangular border.

Colleen A. Kraft MD, MBA, FAAP  
President  
CAK/avg