



# Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Steven Dettelbach Esq. to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the Chair of the Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations (CPHNO), representing public health nurses across the nation, I am writing to support the nomination of Steven Dettelbach as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). The mission of CPHNO is to unite and amplify the authoritative voice of public health nurses, expanding their influence and impact to promote equitable health for all. Public health nurses are anchored in communities across the US. Our focus includes social and economic conditions of health, the environments where people live, and the implementation of evidence-based strategies to promote health and prevent disease and injury. Equitable health for all means that public health nurses are committed to making sure that people in our

communities do not suffer death, injury, or disability because of the color of their skin, their religious beliefs, their social status, and their gender identity. Gun violence is a complex issue deeply rooted in our culture, and it requires a public health approach in order to address it effectively. Public health nurses are working with communities, stakeholders, and elected officials to stop the violence and to keep people safe, given that there are guns in our environment.

Given the recent news that firearm injury is now the leading cause of death in children, we support and join forces with our colleagues from the *American Pediatric Surgical Association* and others, as we too recognize how critical **the** need is to protect our communities and children from gun violence.

ATF's mission is to protect the public from crimes involving firearms, which too often impact children. Nurses speak and recognize the importance of this mission from **first-hand** experience in the care of children who sustain firearm injuries. We know what these injuries look like on-site when they occur, on the front-line of care when they are triaged at our hospitals, and in the recovery stages. CPHNO is committed to improving children's safety, including firearm injury prevention. *It is imperative that effective leadership be secured for the Federal agency charged to enforce the laws that protect the public.*

Mr. Dettelbach is an individual who has the capability for such effective leadership. His prior work demonstrates that he can establish direction, alignment, and commitment to serve the mission of the ATF, which has functioned not just as a prosecutor but as an agent of positive change. Mr. Dettelbach combines a keen recognition of the obligations of his position with the ability to effectively engage stakeholders across diverse domains to pursue solutions. As the number of opioid and gun-related injuries and deaths climb in American children, *we strongly believe that it is counterproductive to have a vacancy in the directors' position of the ATF.*

We believe that Steve Dettelbach, a federal prosecutor at Main Justice in the Civil Rights Division and in United States Attorneys' Offices for nearly 20 years, a counsel in the United States Senate

Judiciary Committee, and a nominee for Ohio Attorney General in 2018, is well qualified. He has the professional experience and personal dedication to making this country a safer place for all of our communities.

Therefore, we urge you to swiftly confirm Steve Dettelbach to be the next Director of ATF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa A. Campbell, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CDP, FAAN  
Chair, CPHNO