



# PRESS RELEASE

## GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS RESPONSE TO BARROW COUNTY SCHOOL SHOOTING

As Georgia pediatricians, we are exhausted by the continual gun violence that our children are facing. We are devastated and heartbroken by the tragedy that occurred today at Apalachee High School in Winder, GA where 4 lives were lost and multiple were injured. We mourn with the families who will not have a child to say goodnight to, who will no longer watch their teen blow out 18 birthday candles, and who will not see their children graduate. We are deeply saddened for their classmates, teachers, school administrators and all of those that have witnessed this event. What will it take for us to see an end to these preventable tragedies?

Firearm injuries are the leading cause of death for children in the United States and in our state. So far this year more than 300 children have been treated in a Georgia emergency department for a firearm injury - that is at least 1 child a day. We cannot continue to accept this as normal. Children should be able to feel safe in their classrooms and parents have a right to expect them to return home safely.

Evidence-based approaches are needed to prevent these tragedies and to protect our children at school and in their day-to-day activities so that they can learn, grow, and thrive in a safe environment. We call on policy makers and legislators to enact these approaches to reduce gun violence in our state. Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and pediatricians across the country will not rest until there is meaningful policy change and all of our children are safe in their schools and communities.

Respectfully,

Nicola Chin, MD  
President

Sofia Chaudhary, MD  
Chair  
Committee on Injury, Violence, & Poisoning Prevention

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6:30 PM SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

---

1350 Spring Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Ga 30309

Joanna Caceres-Aponte  
Executive Assistant  
Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
404.881.5091  
[jcaceres-aponte@gaaap.org](mailto:jcaceres-aponte@gaaap.org)