Dear Einstein Community:

Yesterday, we gathered in Carnegie Hall to celebrate the accomplishments of our class of 2022 at their commencement ceremony. These graduates represent the best of Einstein as they move on to careers in science, medicine, and industry, and we congratulated them for their hard-earned recognition.

While the day was celebratory, there was a dark cloud that could not be ignored—the blight on our nation wrought by senseless killings of defenseless innocents at the hands of gunmen committing mass shootings, some racially motivated. In the weeks before graduation, we've had news of three such massacres cutting short the lives of individuals in Buffalo, NY, Laguna Woods, CA, and Uvalde, TX. And when the victims are children, just beginning their promising, young lives, it is especially devastating.

Throughout the past four years, I've sent messages about other mass shootings, each one a reminder that gun violence is a serious public health crisis in the United States. Our country has, by a wide margin, the greatest number of mass shootings of any developed nation and the largest percentage of gun ownership, which has fueled the crisis.

Expressions of sorrow do not stop bullets. Meaningful action at the federal level is needed—immediately. No more stalling. No more excuses. No more politics. Lawmakers must implement regulations for sensible, responsible gun ownership and usage, and reasonable background checks to prevent such senseless slaughter.

We also need to look at addressing mental health, both of those who commit such heinous acts and those traumatized by them. Our hearts have broken so many times, they are like patchwork quilts in need of constant repair.
By this time, many of you might have seen San Francisco Warriors basketball coach Steve Kerr’s impassioned plea for gun control. Speaking from Texas, only hours before an important playoff game, he refused to talk about basketball. He was angry and upset about the slaughter in Uvalde, the only subject he addressed. He practically shouted, “We can’t get numb to this.” Followed by an emphatic “Enough!”

Truer words were never spoken.

Sincerely,

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.
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