

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2019

Chairman Roy Blunt
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2020 (FY 2020) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request \$23.5 million for the National Violent Death Reporting System within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budget for FY 2020.

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is a state-based system that centralizes information from a variety of state and local agencies and sources, such as law enforcement, medical examiners, crime labs, and death certificates, to provide a more comprehensive picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths. The system tracks deaths caused by child abuse, domestic abuse, suicide, and homicide, which enables states to develop effective strategies to address root causes and implement strategies for prevention. Furthermore, the NVDRS allows the public health research community to access a rich data set that can be analyzed to study the circumstances that lead to violent deaths in our communities.

Each year, more than 64,000 Americans die violently.¹ For example, in North Carolina, NVDRS data showed that women were seven times more likely than men to be killed by a spouse, ex-spouse, or lover. Knowing the profiles of these victims and suspects can lead to appropriate interventions for prevention of intimate partner violence. Estimates like the example above are based solely on information obtained from states funded to participate in the NVDRS.

In FY 2018, NVDRS reached nationwide funding of \$23.5 million for the first time. As of September 2018, all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico have joined the program. Data collected through NVDRS has led to effective programs in participating states all across the country, which have reduced suicide rates and other instances of violent deaths.² Given these positive results, it is vital to continue the funding at \$23.5 million to ensure all states remain in the program, enabling them to design and implement targeted violent-death prevention programs.

¹ National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS),

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nvdrs/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fviolenceprevention%2Fnvdrs%2Findex.html (last visited April 9, 2019).

² Stories from the Frontlines of Violent Death Surveillance, NVDRS https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/safestates.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/NVDRS/NVDRS_Stories_complete_repor.pdf (last visited April 9, 2019).

We believe that the NVDRS is a cost-effective and integral component to the long-term success of local efforts to better understand and ultimately reduce violent deaths in our communities. Thank you for your attention to our request.


Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator