

# TAKE ACTION



## SAFE STATES



### August Month of Action

Your Guide to Protecting the CDC Injury Center During the August Congressional Recess

#### BACKGROUND

Last year, the Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) community rallied to save the CDC Injury Center and its programs after the President proposed eliminating the Center. This year, your advocacy is needed to protect the Injury Center from elimination once again! Members of Congress will be returning to their districts during the August Congressional Recess to meet with constituents, and this presents an opportunity for you and other IVP leaders to educate them about the important work you do.

[Here](#) is an educational overview of the appropriations process.

Safe States encourages you to reach out to your members of Congress to schedule meetings during the August Recess, whether in person at a district office near your or virtually, on your own schedule.

From outreach templates to state-specific issue briefs, Safe States has the resources to support you at every stage. And if questions come up along the way, we're here to help!

#### MONTH OF ACTION CHECKLIST



##### PLAN & COORDINATE

- Connect with other advocates in your state to coordinate joint meetings.
  - Meeting as a group can make these meetings more approachable and more effective!
- Submit in-district or virtual meeting requests with your Congressional offices.
  - Use this [template](#) to identify your members of Congress and request a meeting with them while they're back home in August.

- Follow up by phone if you haven't heard back within one week.
- Confirm meeting date, time, location or video link, and point of contact.
  - Note whether you'll meet with the member directly or their staff - both are valuable.



## PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETINGS

- Assign roles if attending as a group (i.e., who introduces the group, which Injury Center program(s) you'll highlight, and how they connect to the work happening in your community, who delivers the ask, who closes, and who handles follow-up.)
- Share your **NCIPIC State-Specific Issue Brief** and any other handouts with the office ahead of your meeting.



## MEET WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

- Arrive early to your virtual or in-district meeting.
- Note any commitments or next steps mentioned.



## FOLLOW-UP

- Send a thank you within 24 hours - this is also a great time to answer any questions you couldn't answer during the meeting.

## HOW DID IT GO?

Share a recap of your meeting with the Safe States team [here](#).

- This feedback is invaluable! It helps Safe States identify new champions and follow up with offices that expressed interest in supporting the Injury Center and the critical injury and violence prevention work happening on the ground.



*The Safe States Alliance is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving as the national voice in support of injury and violence prevention professionals engaged in building a safer, healthier America.*

*For questions or more information, contact [advocacy@safestates.org](mailto:advocacy@safestates.org)*