



Keep America Safe Coalition

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of the undersigned members of the injury and violence prevention community including the [Keep America Safe Coalition](#), we are extremely concerned with the staffing reductions recently leveled against the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and urge that you reverse the staff purge. The loss of more than 200 public health officials in one of the smallest centers at CDC will undoubtedly have a significant negative impact on its ability to continue the administration of injury and violence prevention programs within its jurisdiction.

NCIPC is the national hub for the most comprehensive data systems and surveillance programs that are used to inform public health policies, guide prevention efforts, and support evidence-based decision-making by the entire country including other federal agencies and state and local partners. No other federal agency collects, analyzes and links hospital and public health data sets to help illustrate a comprehensive picture of the circumstances that lead to injury and violence. State, local, municipal governments and universities rely on these data to inform the design and implementation of targeted injury and violence prevention efforts.

The unique skill sets of NCIPC officials are unparalleled. NCIPC staff are epidemiologists, data scientists, policy experts, and communicators specially trained in the field of injury and violence prevention. The collective expertise of NCIPC officials is unmatched anywhere else in the world.

The loss of internal staff capacity at NCIPC will, in turn, cause a reduction in state and local health department capacity to support injury and violence prevention efforts. NCIPC's work to keep Americans healthy from cradle to grave by ensuring that car seats are appropriately

secured, our youth are protected from sexual predators, athletes and coaches are prepared to recognize traumatic brain injuries, adults learn to swim in coastal communities to reduce drownings, and older adults strengthen their mobility to prevent the risk of falls are now all at risk of elimination.

We urge you to reinstate the NCIPC officials who are critical to carrying out the government's mandate to support and protect all Americans and ask that you clarify how programs with a Congressional authorization and line-item appropriation will be maintained. The withholding of information runs counter to your stated goal to restore trust in the CDC.

We call on you to keep Americans safe from injury and violence and immediately reverse the staff reductions at NCIPC.

Sincerely,

Action Alliance

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Psychological Association

American Samoa Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Big Cities Health Coalition

Brain Injury Association of Nebraska

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Education Development Center

Global Health Advocacy Incubator

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs

Kids and Car Safety

Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

National Council on Aging

National League for Nursing

National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

National Safety Council

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
North Caroline Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Prevention Institute
Respect Together
Safe Kids Wisconsin
SAFE Project
Safe States Alliance
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)
Society for Public Health Education
The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention
Trust for America's Health
Tulane University Violence Prevention Institute
University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center
VALOR
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Violence
Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Young People in Recovery

CC: The Honorable Susan Collins (R-ME), Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray (D-WA), Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole (R-OK), Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee