April 16, 2020

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moore:

On behalf of the Safe States Alliance, we greatly appreciate your leadership in circulating a “Dear Colleague” letter urging support for a $20 million allocation in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to expand the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (SVIPP).

In Wisconsin, injury is the leading cause of death and disability causing 3,078 deaths annually. Using data from the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) system, between 2007-09, injuries resulted in over 1.3 million visits to an emergency department. The data also showed that firearms were the leading cause of injury and Wisconsin has the fourth highest rate in the nation of death from injury caused by unintentional falls.

The Core SVIPP helps states implement, evaluate and disseminate strategies that advance targeted injury and violence prevention programs. It is the only program of its kind that uses research-based evidence to identify the most effective strategies to prevent injuries and violence at the community level. The overall purpose of the Core SVIPP is to decrease injury and violence related morbidity and mortality, and increase sustainability of injury prevention programs and practices.

Unfortunately, only 23 states benefit from Core SVIPP support and grants are capped at $250,000.00 – precious little to have a meaningful impact on the leading cause of death for young Americans. Your efforts to increase Core SVIPP funds to $20 million will allow current grantees to benefit from additional funds, while allowing more states to join the program.

Finally, I would like to recognize and give special thanks to Chris Goldson for his commitment and attention to the needs of the injury and violence prevention community. Despite the many competing demands on his time, Chris recently met with injury and violence prevention experts from Wisconsin to learn more about injury and violence prevention efforts in the state. I know your constituents greatly appreciate his work on your behalf.

We look forward to working with you to expand support for the Core SVIPP so that states such as Wisconsin can strengthen their injury and violence prevention efforts. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Paul Bonta, our Director of Government Relations at Paul.Bonta@safestates.org.

Sincerely,

Richard Hamburg
Executive Director