April 21, 2020

The Honorable Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

On behalf of the Safe States Alliance, we greatly appreciate your leadership in circulating a “Dear Colleague” letter urging support for a $12 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) Injury Control Research Center (ICRC) program.

Violence and injuries are the leading cause of death for the first four decades of life. In fact, in the first half of life, more Americans die from violence and injuries that from any other cause, including cancer, HIV, or the flu. Yet, we know that these deaths and injuries can be prevented when proper funding and strategies are deployed that target violence and injuries. ICRCs utilize federal dollars to study ways to prevent injuries and violence and work with community partners to put research findings into action.

Unfortunately, ICRC funding is limited and allows the CDC to fund the Injury Prevention Research Center at the University of Michigan and just 8 additional centers across the country. Your efforts to expand this funding could allow current grantees to receive additional support, while expanding the ICRC network to additional states. CDC-funded ICRCs have noted the need for additional support to help bolster their injury and violence prevention efforts as they aim to address the burden of injuries and violence in the communities they serve.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and give special thanks to Devin Parsons for her commitment and attention to the needs of the injury and violence prevention community. We recognize she has many competing demands on her time and appreciate her efforts on your behalf.

We look forward to working with you to expand support for the ICRC’s so that states such as Michigan 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