

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April XX, 2025

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
United States Senate  
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
United States Senate  
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request a robust investment in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). The Injury Center serves a unique role in protecting the safety and security of all Americans and sends 80% of its \$761 million budget to communities to support locally driven, evidence-based injury and violence prevention programs.

According to the latest CDC estimates, injuries and violence are the leading causes of death for children and adults ages 1 to 44 with a total economic cost of \$4.2 trillion. Additionally, falls are the leading cause of preventable death among adults 65 years of age and older. A few of the Injury Center programs that support local injury and violence prevention efforts include, the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), the Core State Injury Prevention Program (Core SIPP), and the Older Adult Falls Prevention program.

The NVDRS is a state-based surveillance system that links information from multiple data sources – death certificates, state/local medical examiner, coroner, and law enforcement records – to create a more complete picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths. This system does not require the collection of any new data; it simply supports centralization of existing data that is collected when a violent death occurs. The system tracks deaths caused by child abuse, domestic abuse, suicide, and homicide and supports the creation of effective strategies to address their root causes and implement prevention strategies.

Furthermore, the Core SIPP is the sole federal program that supports states as they build effective injury and violence prevention programs. States use this funding to strengthen and maintain their injury and violence prevention programs with a focus on making the best use of the data to design and implement effective prevention tools. Thanks to prior investment by Congress, 26 states are supported by the Core SIPP program. Through this support, awarded states have addressed issues of local concern such as drowning and suicide prevention.

Finally, the NCIPC evaluates fall prevention strategies to help communities identify the best, evidence-based efforts, to prevent falls and keep older adults safe and independent. Yet, with over 38,000 deaths due to falls in 2021, 1 million fall-related hospitalizations among older adults each year, and 3 million emergency department visits annually due to older adult falls, more must be done to expand evidence-based fall prevention programs to those at risk.

We believe that Injury Center programs like NVDRS, Older Adult Fall Prevention, and Core SIPP programs are a cost-effective and integral component to the long-term success of state efforts to successfully address their injury and violent death prevention needs. Please prioritize investment in the Injury Center and support any FY26 allocation that will help strengthen injury and violence prevention efforts.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,