To be impactful, state and local injury and violence prevention programs must be funded and staffed proportionately to the burden of injuries and violence. Federal funding is key to the continued existence, survival, and success of these programs. Safe States calls on Congress to support:

THE CORE PROGRAM AT THE CDC INJURY CENTER

As the only program of its kind in the nation, states rely on the Core program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Injury Center to implement, evaluate, and expand strategies to preventing their most pressing injury and violence problems. We urge Congress to expand the CDC Core program to all 50 states, all U.S. territories, and Washington, DC.

NATIONAL VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

We appreciate the support Congress has given to CDC to expand the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) nationwide. All 50 states will now be able to use state-level data from multiple sources to understand violent deaths in greater detail. To support their efforts, we request additional NVDRS funding to help states recruit data providers, analyze data, and implement scientific research to inform state and federal violent death prevention programs.

ENSURE HEALTH & PROSPERITY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Congress has a responsibility to ensure the health, well-being, and prosperity of all people in our nation. Unfortunately, racial injustice, economic inequality, and other systemic and structural barriers in our society have created immense inequities. These barriers undermine opportunity, justice, and freedom for everyone. Congress must ensure that everyone - regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, or country of origin - have an opportunity to achieve economic, educational, and personal prosperity throughout their lifetimes. We call on Congress to enact policies and fund programs that eliminate racial discrimination, create equity, address the social determinants of health, prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) among all children and provide everyone with universal health care and comprehensive mental health services.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicides - particularly those caused by firearms - are a significant public health burden. We urge Congress to fund existing suicide prevention grants which help state, territorial, and tribal agencies to prevent suicides. These grant programs include the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Program, CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), and Zero Suicide for Health Systems, a program supported by SAMHSA, Universal Health Services (UHS), and the Education Development Center (EDC).

EACH YEAR IN THE U.S., INJURIES AND VIOLENCE CAUSE*

- 243,000 deaths
- 25 million emergency department visits
- 3 million hospitalizations
- $840 billion in medical & work loss costs

FIREARM VIOLENCE RESEARCH
Science-driven approaches are essential to prevent firearm violence. NVDRS data shows us that firearms increase the lethality of suicide attempts and shootings that lead to homicides. However, preventing just one firearm-related death would save over $1 million dollars in medical and lost productivity costs. Research can provide important insights into how to prevent firearm injuries and deaths, particularly among our nation’s most vulnerable populations. We ask that federal funds be allocated to CDC and other agencies to support firearm violence research.

INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTERS (ICRCs)
ICRCs advance injury and violence prevention science by conducting cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research on the causes, outcomes and prevention of injuries and violence. Of the nine ICRCs currently funded, only one exists west of the Mississippi River, leaving a significant void in efforts to advance violence and injury prevention in half the country. We call on Congress to support the expansion of ICRCs to every region of the country.

MOTOR VEHICLE-RELATED INJURY PREVENTION
Each year, over 30,000 people die in motor vehicle crashes, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Thousands more are seriously injured. We ask Congress to increase funding to federal agencies that help states prevent motor vehicle injuries before they occur. These agencies include the CDC and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which funds programs that address vehicle safety, highway safety enforcement, and autonomous vehicle development.

OLDER ADULT FALLS PREVENTION
Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults. The CDC estimates that $34 billion is spent annually on direct medical costs related to falls. However, Congress allocates just $2 million to the CDC Injury Center and $5 million to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to prevent older adult falls before they occur. We urge Congress to increase support for older adult falls prevention efforts.

OPIOID OVERDOSE PRIMARY PREVENTION
We appreciate the strides Congress has made to address the opioid overdose epidemic. While public health surveillance and education are necessary, they are not enough. Federal support is needed to fund primary prevention efforts that can address the root causes of substance abuse and prevent overdoses in the first place. We call on Congress to fund state-based prevention programs that will prevent opioid overdoses before they occur.