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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We respectfully write to request the inclusion of language in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill to allow states more flexibility to focus on their highest injury and violence prevention needs with funds received through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (SVIPP).

According to the CDC, every three minutes a person dies from a preventable injury or act of violence including domestic violence, falls, motor vehicle collisions, homicides, and prescription drug misuse. This accounts for more than 521 people each day and 190,000 each year in the US. It is estimated that these injuries cost the US \$671 billion in health care expenditures, lost pay and productivity, law enforcement efforts, and in many other areas. It is vital that we work to inject greater flexibility into the Core SVIPP program so that states can truly address their greatest areas of need.

The Core SVIPP is the only program of its kind in the US that uses research-based evidence to identify the most effective strategies to prevent injuries caused by accidents or violence. States rely on the Core SVIPP funding to build, strengthen, and maintain their injury and violence prevention programs with a focus on four key components: building a solid infrastructure; collecting and analyzing data; designing, implementing and evaluating programs; providing technical support and training; and, affecting behavior and knowledge.

Unfortunately, CDC has narrowed the focus of the Core SVIPP program to only the following four areas: motor vehicle injury prevention, youth sports concussion and traumatic brain injury, child abuse and neglect, and sexual violence and intimate partner violence. These restrictions hinder decision-making at the state level and act as a barrier for states that have injury and violence prevention needs outside the four areas of focus selected by the CDC.

To allow states to maximize Core SVIPP funding, we urge you to include the following language in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill:

*Core SVIPP* - The committee commends CDC for expansion of the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (SVIPP) to 23 states and its focus on shared risk and protective factors. To further strengthen state decision-making and support allocation of funds to high burden areas, the committee urges CDC to allow states to utilize Core SVIPP funds to implement, evaluate, and disseminate effective violence and injury prevention programs and policies beyond the four core focus areas selected by CDC. Additional areas may include prevention of falls, prescription drug misuse, homicides, and other areas the state deems to be high priorities.

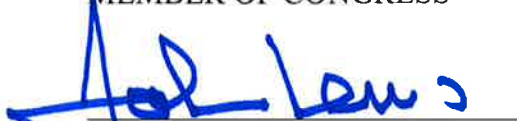
We should encourage states to use federal dollars to focus on their greatest areas of need based on state-level data, not national data. This language will maximize the impact of Core SVIPP funds and provide states the flexibility they need to make meaningful advancements their injury and violence prevention efforts.

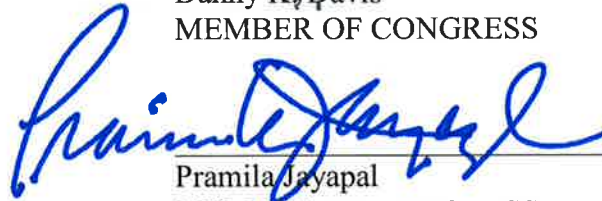
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Gwen S. Moore  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

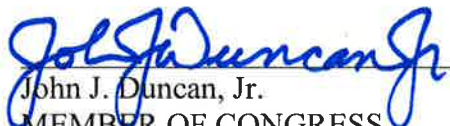
  
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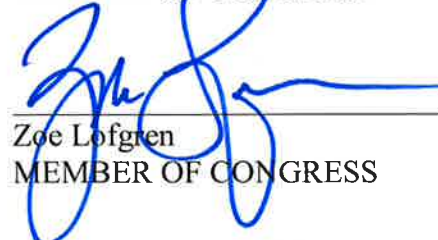
  
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