

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request \$34.5 million for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), \$12.7 million for the Core State Injury Prevention Program Core (SIPP), and \$6 million for elderly falls prevention within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget.

According to the latest CDC estimates, injuries and violence are the leading causes of death for children and adults ages 1 to 45 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. The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is charged with administering NVDRS, Core SIPP, and elderly falls prevention programs aimed at preventing injuries and violence in communities across the country.

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 root causes and implement prevention strategies.

Enhanced funding would support greater analysis and dissemination of NVDRS data, strengthen partnerships with state data providers and expand data linkage opportunities. Additionally, additional resources are needed for larger states to fully implement the program.

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 and affect public behavior and knowledge.

As of fiscal year 2022, only 23 states receive Core SIPP support. In the FY23 Omnibus CDC Core SIPP received a much-needed increase in funding. The increase will likely add three more states to the Core

SVIPP program. The grants have been capped at \$250,000 per state for the past decade despite growing state needs. The issues of injury and violence are a national problem and additional funding in FY 2024 will allow more states to participate and help states save lives and prevent injuries.

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 nearly 36 million falls in 2018 alone, more must be done to expand evidence-based fall prevention programs to those at risk.

We believe that the NVDRS, elderly falls prevention, and Core SVIPP 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 support an FY24 allocation of \$34.5 million for the NVDRS, \$12.6 million for Core SIPP, and \$6 million for elderly falls prevention.

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

Sincerely,

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