

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
United States Senate
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
United States Senate
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

As you consider the fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to 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 older adult falls prevention within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget.

According to the CDC, injuries and violence are the leading causes of death for children and adults ages 1 to 44¹ and have an estimated total economic cost of \$4.2 trillion.² Additionally, falls are the leading cause of preventable death among adults 65 years and older and account for an estimated \$50 billion in medical costs annually. The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) administers NVDRS, Core SIPP, and older adult fall prevention programs to prevent injuries and violence in communities nationwide.

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 complete picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths. This system does not require the collection of any new data. It simply supports the 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 increased analysis and dissemination of NVDRS data, strengthen partnerships with state data providers, and expand data linkage opportunities. Additional resources are also needed for larger states to be able to implement the program completely. 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, focusing on making the best use of the data to design and implement effective prevention tools that affect public behavior and knowledge.

¹ *The Economics of Injury and Violence Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 6, 2021), <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/health-econ-cost-of-injury/index.html>.

² Cora Peterson et al., *Economic Cost of Injury — United States, 2019*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Dec. 2, 2021), <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7048a1.htm>.

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. This increase will likely add three more states to the Core SIPP program. Despite growing state needs, the grants have been capped at \$250,000 per state for the past decade. 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. With nearly 36 million falls in 2018 alone³, more must be done to expand evidence-based fall prevention programs to those at risk.

We believe that the NVDRS, older adult falls prevention, and Core SIPP programs are a cost-effective and integral component to the long-term success of states' efforts to address their injury and violent death prevention needs successfully. Therefore, we ask you to please support an FY24 allocation of \$34.5 million for the NVDRS, \$12.6 million for Core SIPP, and \$6 million for older adult falls prevention.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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Briana Moreland et al., *Trends in Nonfatal Falls and Fall-Related Injuries Among Adults Aged ≥ 65 Years — United States, 2012–2018*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (July 10, 2020), <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6927a5.htm>.