

Support Funding for Injury Control Research Centers

Sending Office: Honorable Debbie Dingell
Sent By: Joe.McNally@mail.house.gov

Request for
Signature(s)

Support Funding for Injury Control Research Centers

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in requesting \$12 million of funding in FY2020 for the Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) program in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Injury is the leading cause of death for people ages 1-44. This includes opioid/prescription drug overdose, suicide, concussion and traumatic brain injury, motor vehicle crash, sexual and youth violence, and other intentional and unintentional injury.

ICRCs develop policies and programs to reduce injury and violence at the local, state and federal levels; provide technical assistance to local and state health departments with implementation of model programs that are responsive to communities' needs; and evaluate injury and violence prevention programs across the country. Since CDC began funding ICRCs in 1987, ICRCs have played a pivotal role in advancing the injury and violence prevention field. Unfortunately, ICRC funding has been level funded at \$9 million for the last several years – funding that only supports 10 centers nationwide. Yet, last year roughly 20 centers applied for ICRC grants. Clearly, the need exists to support additional centers.

We hope you will join us in supporting funding for the ICRC program in FY2020. To join, please contact Joe McNally in Rep. Dingell's office (Joe.McNally@mail.house.gov) or Jennifer Wood in Rep. Katko's office (Jennifer.Wood@mail.house.gov). The deadline to join is March 22.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you and your colleagues begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request \$12 million of funding for the Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) program in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ICRCs develop policies and programs to reduce injury and violence at the local, state and federal levels; provide technical assistance to local and state health departments with implementation of model programs that are responsive to communities' needs; and evaluate injury and violence prevention programs across the country.

Injury – including opioid/prescription drug overdose, suicide, concussion and traumatic brain injury, motor vehicle crash, sexual and youth violence, and other intentional and unintentional injury – is the leading cause of death for people ages 1-44. According to the CDC, injuries cost the nation more than \$671 billion annually in medical and work lost costs, yet we know that most injuries are preventable.

Since CDC began funding ICRCs in 1987, ICRCs have played a pivotal role in advancing the injury and violence prevention field. Notably, *ICRCs are leading research and prevention efforts to address the prevention of fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses* – an issue which affects every congressional district across the country, including urban and rural communities, among young adolescents and elderly adults, and across all races and socioeconomic status. Specific examples of ICRC efforts include:

- The University of **Michigan** ICRC is working with law enforcement and health care organizations to develop a real-time surveillance system to identify and respond to opioid overdose events;
- The University of Rochester ICRC in **New York** is developing community-based suicide prevention programs;
- The Columbia University ICRC in **New York** is expanding community fall prevention programs for older adults;
- The University of **Iowa** ICRC is working to reduce risky teen driving, particularly in rural communities;
- The Johns Hopkins ICRC in **Maryland** is assuring that safety and equity are part of the next generation of road travel that will include driver assisted vehicles and safe system design;
- The Mt. Sinai ICRC in **New York** is advancing violence prevention strategies among youth offenders;
- Nationwide Children's ICRC in **Ohio** is disseminating a mobile app they developed to help families make their homes safer;
- The University of **North Carolina** ICRC is addressing teen dating violence;
- The University of **Pennsylvania** ICRC is reducing concussions among college football players; and
- The **West Virginia** ICRC is disseminating information and about the opioid overdose epidemic and supporting naloxone programs statewide.

ICRCs are uniquely positioned to collaborate with law enforcement, community partner organizations, local and state health departments, and others to foster the design and implementation of targeted, evidence-based injury and violence prevention programs. They focus on the most pressing injury and violence prevention needs within their communities and have demonstrated a positive impact across the injury and violence prevention arena. Unfortunately, ICRC funding has been level funded at \$9 million for the last several years – funding that only supports 10 centers nationwide. Yet, last year roughly 20 centers applied for ICRC grants. Clearly, the need exists to support additional centers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to expand FY 2020 funding for the Injury Control Research Centers to \$12 million to increase their geographic reach and impact, while expanding states' capacity to respond to their injury and violence prevention needs.

Sincerely,

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