

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
United States Senate  
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 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, DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully 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), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) budget.

According to the latest CDC estimates, injuries and violence are the leading causes of death for children and adults ages 1 to 44 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 Older Adult 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. 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.

Thanks to further investment, through \$1 million in additional funding provided by Congress in the FY23 Omnibus package, three additional states now receive Core SIPP support, bringing the total number of states to 26. Despite this increased support and growing state needs, the grants have been capped at \$250,000 per state, for most states, for the past decade. The issues of injury and violence are a national problem and additional funding in FY25 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, Older Adult Fall Prevention, and Core SIPP 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 FY25 allocation of \$34.5 million for the NVDRS, \$12.7 million for Core SIPP, and \$6 million for Older Adult Falls Prevention.

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

Sincerely,