

Injury & Violence Prevention Network



April 30, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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 Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Injury and Violence Prevention Network urge you to maintain current funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center) by **providing at least \$236 million to the Injury Center in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

Despite being one of the smallest centers at CDC, programs administered by the Injury Center are critically important to states as they work to design and implement targeted programs to prevent deaths and injuries in their communities, and have had far-reaching positive health impacts.

Injuries and violence are the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of one to forty-four, regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic status. Nevertheless, our health system remains largely focused on the treatment and prevention of disease and largely ignores the massive burden of injuries and violence. As a country, we are paying an enormous price for our failure to prioritize programs that advance injury and violence prevention. Each year, these preventable injuries and violence account for:

- 192,000 deaths – nearly 1 person every 3 minutes;
- 3 million hospitalizations;
- 27 million emergency department visits; and,
- \$671 billion annually in medical and work loss costs.

The Injury Center administers a wide range of prevention programs to address issues such as youth sports concussions, sexual violence, prescription drug misuse and overdose, motor vehicle injuries, surveillance of violent deaths, and older adult falls. The vast majority of Injury Center funding flows directly to states to support their unique injury and violence prevention needs. Your appropriations make a difference; a recent study by the Safe States Alliance noted that state efforts are heavily reliant on federal funding with two-thirds of state injury and violence prevention program dollars coming from federal programs.

A prime example of how Injury Center funding supports state injury and violence prevention needs is the prescription drug overdose epidemic – a crisis responsible for the deaths of more than 90 Americans each day. In FY 2016, Congress allocated \$70 million to the Injury Center to help tackle the rise in prescription drug overdose deaths. Through this funding, the Injury Center is providing direct support to 29 states

through its *Prevention for States* program, which allows states to advance in four key areas: (1) maximizing prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) for easier clinician use and access, and more timely data to better understand the local impact of this national epidemic; (2) strengthen community or insurer/health systems interventions to improve prescribing interventions, such as the adoption of evidence-based guidelines; (3) conduct policy evaluations to determine what is making a difference in this effort; and (4) facilitate rapid response projects to respond to new and emerging local issues. Additionally, this funding has allowed the Injury Center to support an additional 13 states and the District of Columbia through the Data-Driven Prevention Initiative to build better systems for data collection and analysis and to develop community strategies for preventing opioid misuse and abuse.

These investments reflect the importance of the Injury Center's federal leadership role and the expertise within the Injury Center that is critical for beginning to turn the tide on this devastating epidemic and prevent future addictions and deaths.

Now is not the time to pull back our investments in injury and violence prevention efforts. **Please work to ensure that states continue to receive the critically needed resources and expertise provided by the Injury Center to save lives and prevent lifelong disability due to injuries and violence by providing at least \$236 million to the Injury Center in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact Paul Bonta, Safe States Alliance's Director of Government Relations at Paul.Bonta@Safestates.org or 202-679-8646.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Trauma Society
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Brain Injury Association of America
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Center for Injury Research and Violence
Committee for Children
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
Prevent Child Abuse America
Prevention Institute
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe States Alliance
Society for Public Health Education
Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Trust for America's Health