

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
B300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh, Ranking
Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

We respectfully request the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee designate \$7.5 million within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fiscal year (FY) 2009 budget for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS).

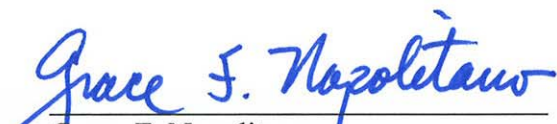
Each year more than 50,000 Americans suffer violent death. Despite this staggering loss of life, most communities lack data about the circumstances of these deaths. The NVDRS, which is currently active in 17 states, links data from public health, law enforcement, medical examiners and social service agencies to provide a more comprehensive picture of the circumstances surrounding violent death.

Using the data collected through the NVDRS, effective strategies can be developed to prevent violent death, including those caused by suicide, homicide, child abuse and domestic violence. The NVDRS also enables states to better evaluate existing programs, thereby assuring the most efficient and effective use of violence and suicide prevention dollars.

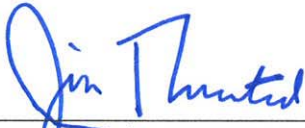
The information collected through the NVDRS can be used to save lives and has already strengthened violence and suicide prevention efforts in the 17 participating states. Yet many other states have been turned away due to funding shortfalls. By providing \$7.5 million for the NVDRS for FY 2009 this program will be able to expand to additional states and continue its growth toward national implementation.

We strongly support the NVDRS and urge you to support a FY 2009 LHHS bill that funds the NVDRS at \$7.5 million to allow for the expansion of this cost-effective and valuable program. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Timothy M. Murphy
Member of Congress



Jim Ramstad
Member of Congress



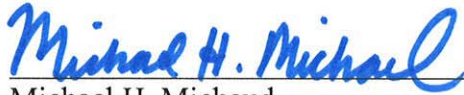
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



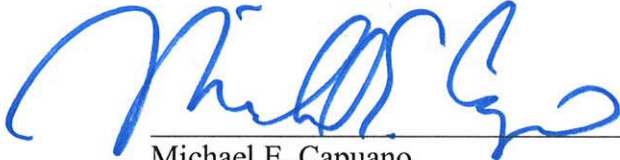
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress