

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request \$23.5 million for the National Violent Death Reporting System within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budget for fiscal year (FY) 2017.

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is state-based system that centralizes information from a variety of state and local agencies and sources such as law enforcement, medical examiners, crime labs, and death certificates to provide a more comprehensive picture of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths. The system tracks deaths caused by child abuse, domestic abuse, suicide, and homicide which enables states to develop effective strategies to address root causes and implement strategies for prevention. Furthermore, the NVDRS allows the public health research community to access a rich data set that can be analyzed to study the circumstances that lead to violent deaths in our communities.


Each year more than 55,000 Americans are killed violently. Despite this staggering loss of life, we lack comprehensive data about the circumstances surrounding these deaths. An issue of particular concern is the alarmingly high rate of suicides among active and former military personnel which are estimated to be 20 percent of all suicides nationally. However, due to the lack of comprehensive national data this estimate is based solely on information obtained from states currently funded to participate in the NVDRS.

The current budget for NVDRS only provides for 32 states to track data on violent deaths, despite the successful application of six more that were denied due to insufficient funding. With a \$7.5 million dollar increase, we can expand this critical program to the remaining 18 states and the District of Columbia. Data collected through NVDRS has led to effective programs that have been implemented from Oregon to Massachusetts leading to reductions in suicide rates and other instances of violent deaths. Given these significant results, additional funding is needed to allow all states to design and implement targeted violent death prevention programs.

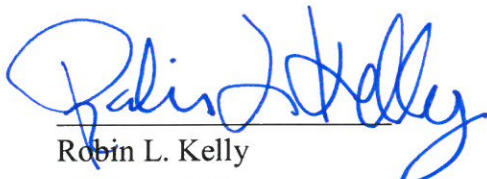
We believe that the NVDRS is a cost-effective and integral component to the long-term success of local efforts to better understand and ultimately reduce violent deaths in our communities.

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

Sincerely,




Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



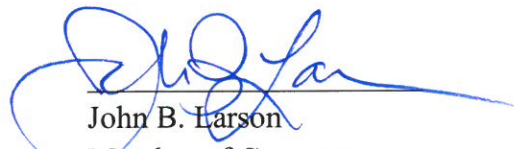
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



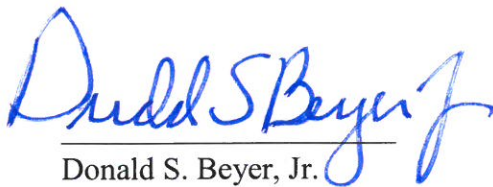
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



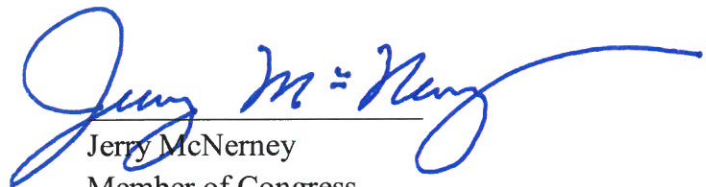
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



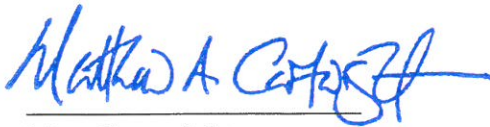
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



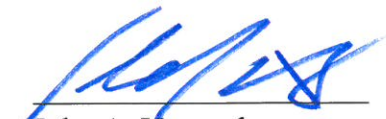
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



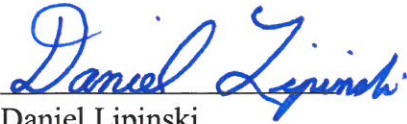
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



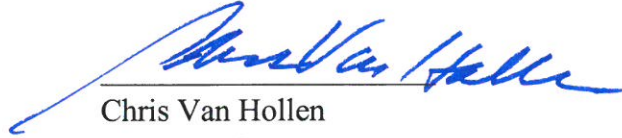
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



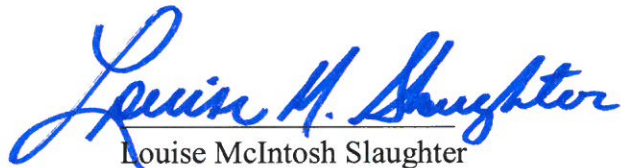
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress