



# National Violence Prevention Network

November 9, 2011

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
Co-Chair, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction  
129 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Co-Chair, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Hensarling, Senator Murray, and Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

On behalf of the National Violence Prevention Network, I would like to take this opportunity to express our views as your Joint Select Committee considers the wide range of possibilities available for deficit reduction.

The National Violence Prevention Network strongly urges that members of the Joint Select Committee take no actions that would further weaken our public health infrastructure supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget. The agency is essential to our nation's critical health surveillance activities.

For example, CDC supports a very cost-efficient, state-based surveillance system examining violent death in this country – a system providing information to help develop and implement targeted state violence prevention programs.

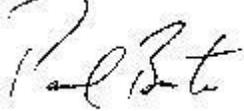
More than 50,000 Americans suffer violent death each year and unfortunately, most communities lack data about the circumstances surrounding these deaths. An issue of particular concern and growing visibility is the alarming high rate of suicides among active and former military personnel.

Rather than reducing resources, it is imperative that we work towards national implementation of the NVDRS program so that we can better understand and work to reverse these tragic trends. The program is a cost-effective and integral component to the long-term success of local efforts to better understand, and ultimately reduce, violent death in our communities.

As your Committee deliberations move toward a conclusion, we strongly urge your support for fiscal solutions that maintain discretionary funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and thus our critical national public health infrastructure.

We appreciate this opportunity to present our views to the members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact Paul Bonta at the American College of Preventive Medicine at [pbonta@acpm.org](mailto:pbonta@acpm.org) or 202-466-2044, x110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bonta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "B".

Paul Bonta  
Chair  
National Violence Prevention Network