

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

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 2018 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) 2018.

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 58,000 Americans die violently.¹ 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 suicide rate among active and former military personnel — estimated to be 20 percent of all suicides nationally.² But 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.

In fact, the current NVDRS budget provides enough resources for only 42 states to track data on violent deaths;³ another 2 states have successfully applied for grants but received no money due to insufficient funding. With a \$7.5 million dollar increase in FY16 NVDRS budget, we can expand this critical program to the remaining eight states and the District of Columbia.⁴ Data collected through NVDRS has led to effective programs in participating states all across the country, which have reduced suicide rates and other instances of violent deaths.⁵ Given these

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NVDRS/index.html>.

² <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/suicide-data-report-2012-final.pdf> at 15.

³ <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/NVDRS/index.html>.

⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/budget/documents/fy2017/fy-2017-cdc-congressional-justification.pdf> at 336.

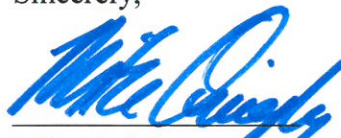
⁵ https://c.yimcdn.com/sites/safestates.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/NVDRS/NVDRS_Stories_complete_repor.pdf.

positive results, additional funding is warranted and would allow all states to design and implement targeted violent-death prevention programs.

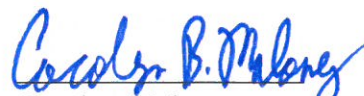
We believe that the NVDRS is a cost-effective and integral component to the long-term success of local efforts to better understand and ultimately reduce violent deaths in our communities.

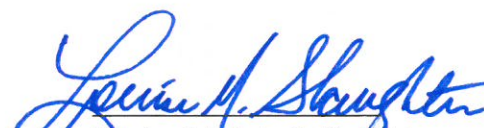
Thank you in advance for your thoughtful attention to this matter.


Sincerely,

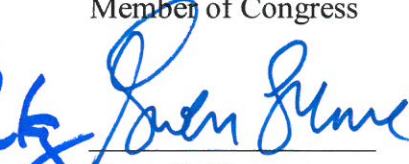

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

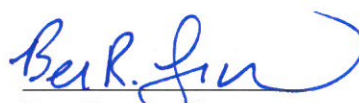

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

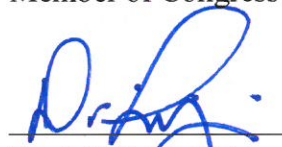

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

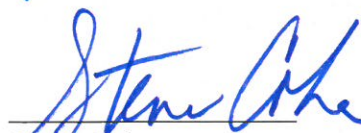

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

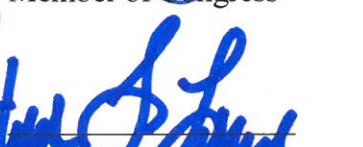

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

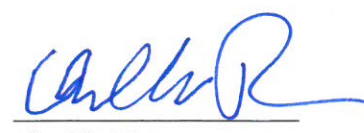

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

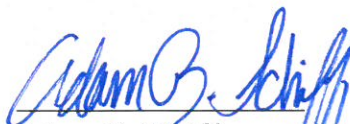

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

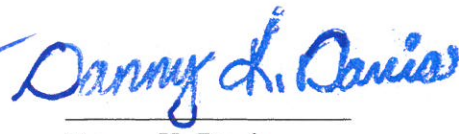

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

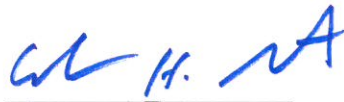

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

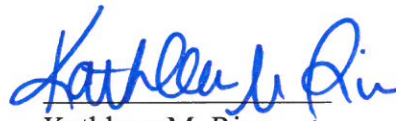

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



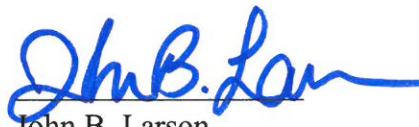
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



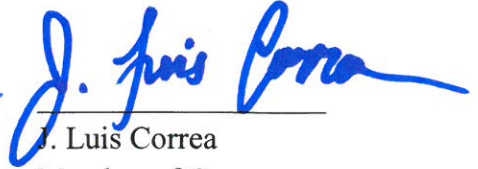
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



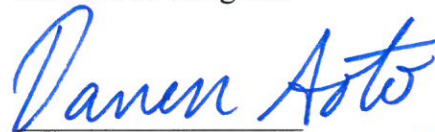
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



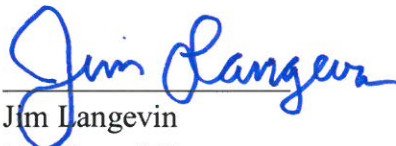
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



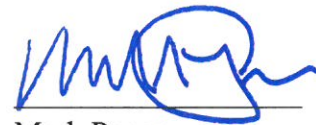
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



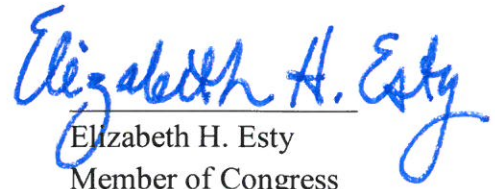
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



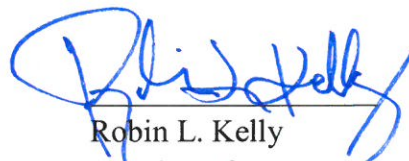
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



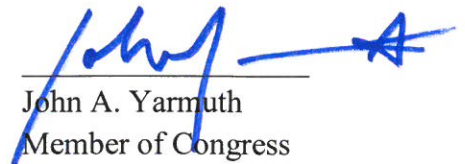
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



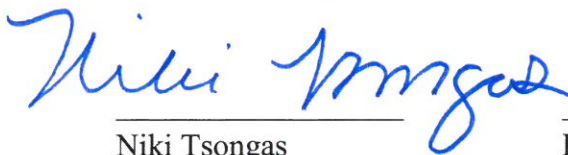
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



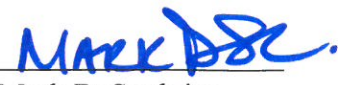
John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



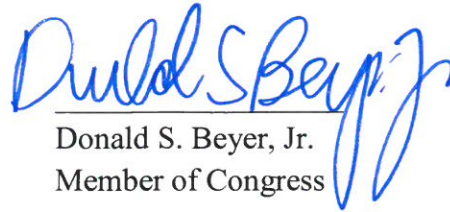
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



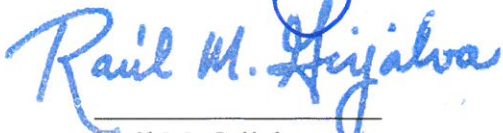
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



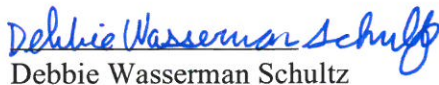
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress