

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

Chairman Roy Blunt  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, HHS, Education  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, HHS, Education  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request level funding of \$23.5 million for the National Violent Death Reporting System within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budget.

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is a state-based system that centralizes information from a variety of state and local agencies and sources, including 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 the root causes of these deaths 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.

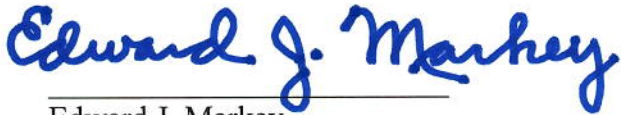
Each year, more than 61,000 Americans die violently. Despite this staggering loss of life, we lack comprehensive data about the circumstances surrounding these deaths. An issue of particular concern is the alarmingly high suicide rate among active and former military personnel — estimated to be 20 percent of all suicides nationally. Due to the lack of comprehensive national data, however, this estimate is based solely on information obtained from states currently funded to participate in the NVDRS.

In fiscal year 2018, NVDRS received for the first time funding to reach all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We must sustain this funding to ensure all states are able to receive grants to implement the program. 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. Given these 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,



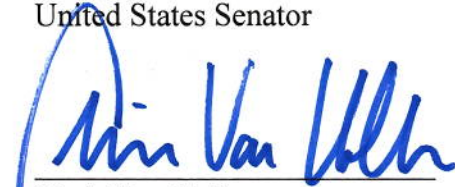
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



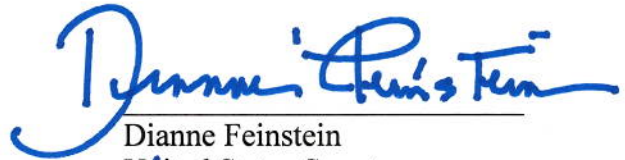
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



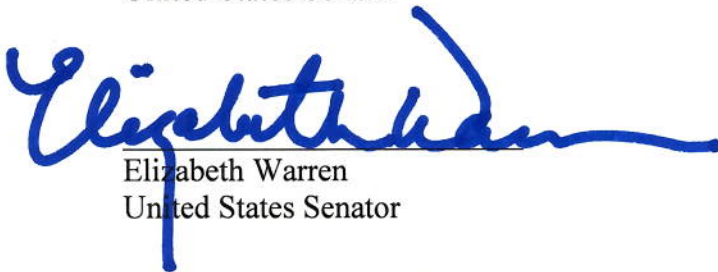
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



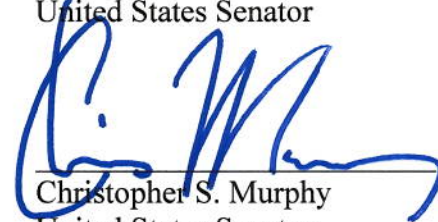
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator