



NATIONAL VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION NETWORK

March 12, 2007

The Honorable <<>> <<>>  
<<>> Office Building  
Washington, D.C., <<>>

Dear <<>> <<>>,

The undersigned organizations, representing a diverse alliance of health and welfare, violence and suicide prevention, and law enforcement advocates, respectfully request your continued support for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and urge you to provide no less than \$10 million for this critical injury prevention program in FY 2008.

Each year, more than 50,000 Americans suffer violent deaths, including those caused by suicide, homicide, child abuse and domestic violence. Despite this tragic loss of life, most communities lack the data about the circumstances of these deaths needed to guide local public health prevention efforts. Through its coordinated network of state-based surveillance systems, NVDRS enables participating states to collect uniform, detailed information about violent deaths – information that ultimately can be used to help save lives. NVDRS also enables states to evaluate and strengthen existing programs, thereby assuring the most efficient and effective use of violence prevention dollars.

Currently, 17 states participate in NVDRS. While these states significantly benefit from the information generated by NVDRS, many states that wish to participate have been turned away due to funding shortfalls. By providing at least \$10 million for NVDRS in FY 2008, Congress can help ensure that the program continues on its path of national implementation, informing and improving violence prevention strategies in all 50 states.

We thank the Subcommittee for its commitment to NVDRS in previous years and look forward to working with you in support of an appropriation of at least \$10 million in FY 2008. Please contact Paul Bonta, American College of Preventive Medicine, at 202-466-2044, or Cindy Pellegrini, American Academy of Pediatrics, at 202-347-8600, with any questions or if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Suicidology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association



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American Psychological Association  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty (CHILD)  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Family Violence Prevention Fund  
National Association of County & City Health Officials  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Police Association  
National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide  
National School Safety Center  
New York Academy of Medicine  
The Police Foundation  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association  
Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education (SAVE)  
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA)