



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESIDENT'S FY 2014 BUDGET PROVIDES CRITICALLY NEEDED INVESTMENTS IN INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND OTHER SAFETY PROGRAMS

Cancels Sequestration, Minimizes Further Damage to Critical Domestic Programs

In the current fiscal environment, the Safe States Alliance realizes the pressure policymakers face to balance the nation's budget. We support the president's efforts to cancel sequestration and reduce the deficit in the FY 2014 budget request, and increase investments for injury and violence prevention and other safety programs. However, we regret the budget eliminates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. Continued cuts to public health and other discretionary programs have a negligible impact on the debt, and put Americans' health and safety at risk.

Injuries and violence are serious public health problems and the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of one and 44. More than 180,000 people die from injuries and violence annually – nearly one person every three minutes. In 2010, more than 31 million people were treated for nonfatal injuries in emergency departments. Additionally, injuries and violence cost the U.S. \$406 billion annually in medical costs and lost productivity.

The Safe States Alliance supports its partners, including the Coalition for Health Funding, in calling for a balanced approach to deficit reduction, which does not include further cuts to discretionary programs, including public health and research. We believe public health has already done its part to reduce the deficit. Public health is only 1.6 percent of all federal spending. It is not the root cause of our fiscal crisis, and further cuts will not bring the budget into balance. On the contrary, with a greater investment, public health is an integral part of the solution. Evidence abounds - from the Department of Defense to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce - healthy Americans are stronger on the battlefield, have higher academic achievement, and are more productive on the job. Healthy Americans drive our economic engine, and ultimately cost our nation less in health care spending.

Safe States applauds new and expanded investments in injury and violence prevention in the President's FY 2014 budget including:

- Expanded support for the national violent death surveillance system and research on the causes and prevention of firearm related violence;
- Additional funding to support evidence-based home visitation programs, which have been shown to reduce child maltreatment and other injuries;
- Support efforts to rebuild high-poverty communities and reduce violence across the country; and
- Increase funding for highway safety programs.

At the same time, Safe States is concerned about the proposed elimination of the CDC's Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. For more than 30 years, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant has been an essential source of federal funding for state agencies to support state solutions to state health problems. The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant allows each state to be autonomous and responsible to its own distinct health priorities and needs. In FY 2011, more than 20% of the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant was used by states to support injury and violence prevention and emergency medical services. Since the CDC is able to support only 20 states through the Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program, states have utilized the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant to fill this critical funding gap. The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant represented 9.4 percent of total funding reported by state health department injury and violence prevention programs in 2011.

“Preventable injuries exact a heavy burden on Americans through premature deaths and disabilities, pain and suffering, medical and rehabilitation costs, disruption of quality of life for families, and disruption of productivity for employers,” said Amber Williams, Executive Director of the Safe States Alliance. “Strengthening investments in public health injury and violence prevention programs is a critical step to keep Americans safe and productive for the 21st century.”

Safe States urges Congress and the Administration to find compromise in a budget for FY 2014, which provides a balanced approach to deficit reduction, replacing sequestration, stabilizing the deficit in a meaningful way, and addressing the root drivers of the debt.

The Safe States Alliance is a non-profit organization and professional association whose mission is to serve as the national voice in support of state and local injury and violence prevention professionals engaged in building a safer, healthier America. [Visit our Press Room.](#)

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