

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are deeply concerned regarding the recent stoppage of grants under the Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI). This funding, appropriated by Congress, directly contributes to making communities safer. We urge you to honor the grants already awarded and to implement this funding as Congress directed.

Funding for CVIPI helps create and expand community violence intervention (CVI) programs in major cities, small towns, and rural communities across the United States. These programs leverage partnerships between law enforcement, local organizations, faith-based groups, and city, county and state governments to reduce crime. CVI programs have been shown to reduce violent crime by over 30 percent,<sup>1</sup> helping to make America safer. Cutting the CVIPI program does not prioritize making communities safer.

Communities across the United States, both rural and urban alike, have long grappled with persistent violence. Recognizing this dire situation and understanding the critical role that community-based violence intervention and prevention programs play in combating the community violence epidemic plaguing American communities, there is an urgent need to continue to support programs such as CVIPI to ensure that violence reduction continues.

Importantly, the stoppage of CVIPI grants is not happening in isolation. In early April, the Department of Health and Human Services implemented a significant Reduction in Force and announced a major restructuring and consolidation across the Department. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Injury Prevention—and notably its Division of Violence Prevention (DVP)—was heavily impacted. Most of the DVP staff was fired, resulting in the loss of decades of leadership and expertise on how to apply public health data and evidence into practice to prevent community violence. Further, the reorganization and consolidation efforts would eliminate what remains of the DVP, including all funding for youth and community violence prevention and gun violence prevention research. Currently, CDC funds communities to implement proven approaches that 1) create healthy and safe communities where family and social ties are strong; 2) ensure homes, businesses, parks, and recreation centers are well maintained; and 3) provide young people with access to good schools, supervised afterschool activities, mentors, and mental health supports. Eliminating the DVP and the funding and programs that community-based organizations, local and state and state health departments, and healthcare systems rely on for community safety—combined with the CVIPI stoppage—will result in entirely preventable harm and trauma to communities across the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/community-violence-intervention#:~:text=The%20most%20successful%20of%20these,and%20the%20neighborhoods%20they%20serve.>

Increasingly robust data and outcomes provide empirical evidence that community-centered approaches such as violence interruption and street outreach, hospital-based intervention programs, cognitive behavioral therapy, trauma support, and supporting police-community relations, can significantly reduce violence.

Successful programs include READI Chicago, a large-scale initiative operated through the University of Chicago Crime Lab and Heartland Alliance, where program participants have 64 percent fewer arrests for shootings and homicides and 18 percent fewer victimizations compared with a randomized control group;<sup>2</sup> Charlotte, North Carolina's Cure Violence program showed a 75 percent reduction in killings;<sup>3</sup> The Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance in Ohio, through social programs, including hospital-based interventions and employment opportunities, has reached 450 program participants, who either have been or are at higher risks of being impacted by gun violence;<sup>4</sup> Acenda Integrated Health, an organization supporting community violence intervention efforts using community-centric and credible messengers to address community violence in rural neighborhoods;<sup>5</sup> and of the participants that were referred by community outreach organizations to Baltimore's Roca program, which works with high-risk populations, 94 percent were not incarcerated for new charges and 72 percent had no new arrests.<sup>6</sup> Baltimore, Maryland, experienced a 21 percent decline in homicides in 2023 after creating an Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and utilizing a Group Violence Reduction Strategy involving "intentional collaboration between law enforcement, social services, and community members."<sup>7</sup> These are just a few examples that show community-based violence intervention and prevention programs are an effective strategy to reduce violent crime.

In states like Massachusetts, which has one of the lowest gun homicides rates in the nation, large statewide investments in community violence intervention programs are saving lives and taxpayer dollars: generating more than \$5.00 in savings for each dollar invested because of significant reductions in violence and crime recidivism rates.<sup>8</sup>

Although these proven strategies have been researched, cited in academic literature, and supported by law enforcement, they remain chronically underfunded at every level of government, prolonging the daily loss of life and rising violence. Therefore, to continue strengthening our public health and safety infrastructure to combat community violence and senseless deaths, we urge you to continue the disbursement of CVIPI grants immediately. Reinstating this funding would reaffirm the federal government's commitment to addressing community violence through a comprehensive and coordinated approach, ensuring the safety and well-being of all Americans.

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<sup>2</sup> [READI-01.2023.pdf \(heartlandalliance.org\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Our Impact — Cure Violence Global \(cvg.org\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance, <https://clevelandpeacemakers.org/>

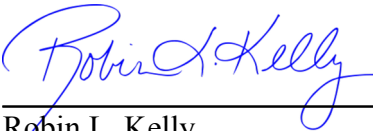
<sup>5</sup> [Acenda Integrated Health \(AcendaHealth.org\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Roca-Baltimore-FY-23-Full-Report.pdf \(rocainc.org\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> Andone, Dakin and Tucker, Emma. "'This is not luck. This is a systemic approach': These major US cities are trying to curb violent crime — and it's working," CNN, 29 Sept. 2024. [Link](#).


<sup>8</sup> Commonwealth Corporation, SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH INITIATIVE (SSYI) <https://commcorp.org/programs/safe-and-successful-youth-initiative>.

Sincerely,



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



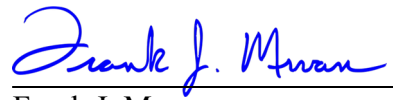
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



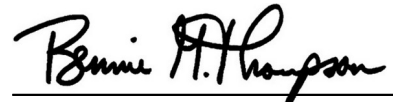
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Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



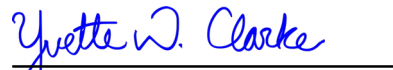
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress




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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



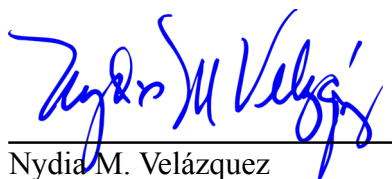
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

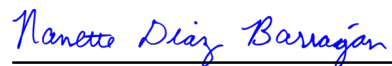


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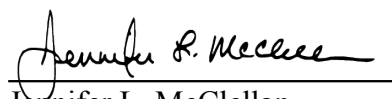
Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



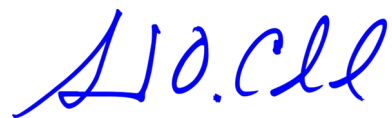
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



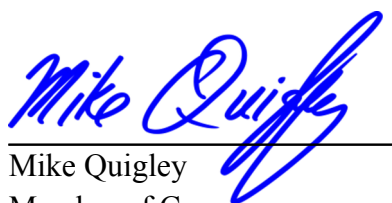
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress




Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

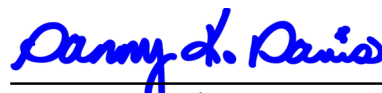


Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



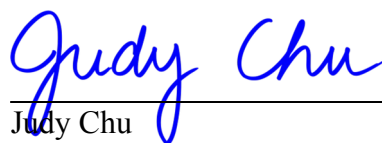
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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



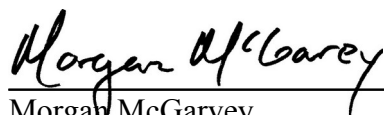
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



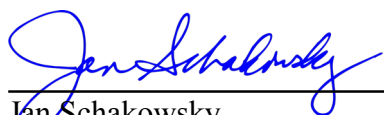
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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



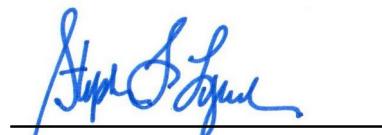
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



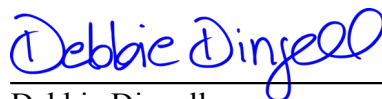
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



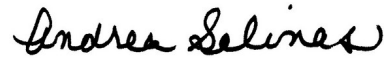
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress




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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



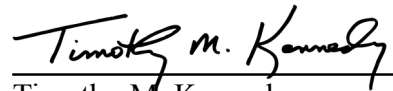
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



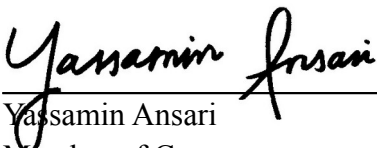
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress