



April 22, 2022

Dear Representative Crow:

As the Suicide Prevention Administrator within the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment, I appreciate the opportunity to write a letter of support on behalf of this spending request from the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

Colorado, like other states in the West, has a disproportionately high rate of injuries, particularly suicide. For example, suicide deaths among 15-19 year-olds in Colorado increased 54% from 2016-2020. Colorado's suicide rate per 100,000 is 20.4% as opposed to the national average of 10.1% for this same age group, that is 50% higher than the national average. Suicide remains the leading cause of death for young people in this country. Since February 14, 2019, I have been an advocate for policy changes to prevent suicide. We lost our 15 year-old, Jack Padilla, to suicide on that day. It has been devastating to our family and our community, but as President Biden said during his acceptance speech "it has given me purpose in life". I changed careers to focus my efforts on suicide prevention, my efforts have ranged from collaborating with youth on a Public Service Suicide Prevention campaign, Teens2Teens, working with the Colorado Legislature on "Jack & Cait's law, new anti-bullying legislation to creating a youth created and focused youth mental health submit, and school based seminars entitled, "We Got This". These efforts and more have involved youth in the idea creation, planning, and execution of these initiatives. We are in urgent need of high impact public health solutions that can prevent these deaths from occurring.

The Injury and Violence Prevention Center is a source for innovative research in addressing the multiple sources of firearm injury deaths (including suicides, child accidental shootings, youth community violence), as well as opioid overdose deaths, motor vehicle related injuries and other unintentional causes of injuries. I was excited when the Injury and Violence Prevention Center formed and invited me to serve on its External Advisory Committee. The continued growth of this Center will serve Colorado in addressing our disproportionately high rate of injuries and fatalities.

With this community directed funding, the Injury and Violence Prevention Center is poised to make a large impact on reducing the burden of injury and violence in Colorado through scholarships for students from underrepresented backgrounds, pilot grants to stimulate new research projects, and outreach to community partners. I endorse this project and look forward to working closely with the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at CU Anschutz to realize their vision and contribute to public health solutions to prevent suicide.

Sincerely,

Rick Padilla

Rick Padilla
Suicide Prevention Administrator
[Department of Public Health & Environment](#)

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COLORADO
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Ashley Brooks-Russell, MPH, PhD
Associate Professor, Community and Behavioral Health
Director, Injury and Violence Prevention Center
Colorado School of Public Health | CU Anschutz Medical Campus
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April 1, 2022

Dear Dr. Brooks-Russell:

On behalf of the Violence and Injury Prevention - Mental Health Promotion Branch at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) it is my pleasure to write a letter of support on behalf of your community directed spending request from the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Our public health practitioners at CDPHE have long collaborated with faculty, students, and staff at CU Anschutz on injury and violence prevention research, evaluation, and public health practice. We were excited when the Injury and Violence Prevention Center formed last year. The continued growth of this Center will serve Colorado in addressing our disproportionately high rate of injuries and fatalities.

As you may know, injuries including suicide, homicides and violence, opioid overdose deaths and motor vehicle crashes are among the leading causes of death, and the leading cause of death for young people under the age of 45. Colorado, similar to other states in the mountain west, have a disproportionately high rate of many of these causes of injuries, particularly suicide deaths. Sadly, the research and prevention funding to address these issues is a fraction of other health concerns. For example, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention funds a national network of injury centers but there are only 9, and only 1 west of the Mississippi. Funding for these centers has decreased year after year, despite the rising rates of suicide and opioid overdose deaths in Colorado and nationally.

We are in urgent need of high impact public health solutions that can prevent these deaths at a population level. In this effort, we have found partnerships with your faculty researchers at the CU Anschutz campus. The Injury and Violence Prevention Center is a source for innovative research in addressing the multiple sources of firearm injury deaths including high rates of veteran firearm suicides, child accidental shootings, youth community violence, as well as opioid overdose deaths, drug impaired driving, and child maltreatment prevention. You approach your work with a focus on authentically engaging with the community experiencing the burden of injury. This is perhaps best exemplified by our partnership on the Firearm Prevention Initiative, which facilitates an active community coalition, including owners of gun shops and shooting ranges, and members of the firearm owning community, to join the medical community in addressing firearm suicide.

In addition to research on public health priorities, we rely on your expertise to evaluate our public health programming at CDPHE. You also educate our future public health leaders and provide ongoing training to our public health workforce. For example, your monthly series focused on translating research to practice and your weekly *Flashlight* series centering equity approaches are vital to improving CDPHE's grantee success. You also provide grants to students from underrepresented backgrounds to address health inequities in injury outcomes.

With additional community directed funding, your Injury and Violence Prevention Center is poised to make a large impact on reducing the burden of injury and violence in Colorado, and the larger region. On behalf of our programs at CDPHE, we endorse this project and look forward to working closely with the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at CU Anschutz to realize our shared vision.

Sincerely,

Ali Maffey, MSW
Interim Branch Director
Violence and Injury Prevention - Mental Health Promotion Branch



April 22, 2022

Dear Congressman Crow:

On behalf of the Injury Prevention Program at UCHHealth, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support on behalf of this community-directed spending request from the Injury & Violence Prevention Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Our hospital is a Level 1 Trauma Center and, as such, we are highly committed to injury prevention and treatment. We value the research and training partnership we have with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, particularly the Injury & Violence Prevention Center.

In Colorado, and nationally, we are in urgent need of high-impact, public-health solutions that can prevent these injuries from occurring which will reduce the burden on trauma centers like ours. The Injury & Violence Prevention Center is a source for innovative research in addressing the multiple sources of firearm-injury deaths (including suicides, child accidental shootings and youth-community violence), as well as opioid-overdose deaths, motor vehicle-related injuries and other unintentional causes of injuries.

Colorado, similar to other states in the mountain west, has a disproportionately high rate of many of these injuries, particularly suicide. At UCHHealth, we see and treat the effects of these preventable injuries on a daily basis. I was excited when the Injury & Violence Prevention Center formed last year. The continued growth of this Center will serve Colorado in addressing our disproportionately high rate of injuries and fatalities.

With this community-directed funding, the Injury & Violence Prevention Center is poised to make a large impact on reducing the burden of injury and violence in Colorado and the larger mountain west region. On behalf of the injury prevention program at UCHHealth, I endorse this project and look forward to working closely with the Injury & Violence Prevention Center at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center to realize their vision.

Respectfully,

Laurie Lonsdale

Laurie Lovedale, MPH
Program Manager for Injury Prevention



Children's Hospital Colorado

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April 22, 2022

RE: Request for Congressionally Directed Funding for the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at CU Anschutz

Dear Congressman Crow,

I am the Trauma/Burn Medical Director at Children's Hospital Colorado. I am thrilled to write a letter of support on behalf of the spending request from the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus.

Children's Hospital Colorado is an American College of Surgeons verified Level 1 Pediatric Trauma and Burn Center, and the only regional pediatric trauma center in our eight-state catchment area (CO, MT, WY, ND, SD, NE, KS, NM). We routinely care for children who have experienced severe, life-threatening and life-changing traumatic injuries. We know from scientific research that injuries are predictable and preventable, and this critical prevention work must be done in partnership with academic, community, and clinical partners. Despite the astronomically high burden of injuries – trauma is the leading cause of childhood death in this country -- there is very limited funding available for trauma research and training programs in this area.

We partner with the Injury and Violence Prevention Center because advancing the science of injury prevention is an urgent endeavor, and the multidisciplinary center plays a critical role in the field. By helping to bring the latest public health solutions into practice, we can save lives and lower the cost of care in the state, region and around the country.

With greater support, the Injury and Violence Prevention Center on the Anschutz Medical Campus will address our state's high rate of preventable injuries and violence. On behalf of the Children's

Hospital Colorado Trauma and Burn Programs, I fully endorse this request for funding and look forward to continuing to partner with the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at CU Anschutz to grow and advance our shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light yellow rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "S. Moulton".

Steven L. Moulton, MD
Professor of Surgery
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Colorado Firefighter Endowed Chair for Burn and Trauma Care
Director, Trauma/Burn Programs
Children's Hospital Colorado