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May 1, 2018

Richard S. Hamburg, MPA
Executive Director
Safe States Alliance
2200 Century Parkway, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30345

Letter of Support for proposal for CDC funding opportunity CDC-RFA-CE18-1802, *Creating Safer States: Through Building Capacity for Injury & Violence Prevention*

Dear Mr. Hamburg:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to support the application of the Safe States Alliance (Safe States) and its competitive proposal in response to the CDC Notice of Funding Opportunity announcement entitled, "*Creating Safer States: Through Building Capacity for Injury & Violence Prevention (CDC-RFA-CE18-1802)*".

Safe States is uniquely qualified to meet the requirements of the cooperative agreement. The mission of Safe States is to strengthen the practice of injury and violence prevention, and Safe States is the only national non-profit organization comprised of public health injury and violence prevention professionals representing all U.S. states and territories. Since it was founded nearly 25 years ago, Safe States has maintained a proven track record of providing critical capacity building assistance to state health departments, as well as the broader field of injury and violence prevention professionals.

ASTHO supports the Safe States proposal to strengthen and build core public health capacity in the area of violence and injury prevention through enhancing program capacity across the core components of model IVP programs; providing and assuring training and technical assistance; strengthening skills in the core competencies for IVP practitioners; supporting surveillance, communication, policy and program capacity; and collaboration and partnership development.

ASTHO is the national non-profit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing thoughtful public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice. Safe States is currently working with ASTHO on several projects. For example, for our sexual violence prevention initiative, Safe States is developing a web-based tool underlying the strategic framework so that all states will be able to use to further elevate sexual violence prevention as a public health issue in their state. Safe States is also the injury prevention lead for an initiative to work with states on opioid overdose prevention.

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We look forward to the opportunity to continue that partnership through this new agreement. Considering the shared goal across our organizations to support the injury and violence prevention workforce, we are eager to support Safe States' capacity building and workforce development coaching efforts through this cooperative agreement.

The work in progress at Safe States and the proposed continued partnership with CDC represent an important opportunity to continue to support and enhance state health department injury and violence prevention capacity, as well as further the entire field of injury and violence prevention. ASTHO strongly supports the Safe States Alliance proposal and would be pleased to continue to partner with Safe States to further our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Fraser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael R. Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Executive Director