



March 15, 2019
Congressman Ruppertsberger
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2002

Re: End the Cycle of Violence Act of 2019 - Support

Dear Congressman Ruppertsberger,

The National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (NNHVIP) is pleased to endorse and offer our support for the “End the Cycle of Violence Act of 2019.” This important legislation would increase funding for trauma centers to expand and conduct research into existing violence intervention programs.

While modern medicine has saved countless lives from violent injuries, most healthcare systems routinely fail to address violently injured patients’ risk of re-injury after these patients exit the hospital. This creates a revolving door of violent injury and trauma centers too often see the same victims repeatedly. Research shows that without intervention, violently injured patients are at high risk for repeat injuries in the future, engaging in retaliatory violence and suffering from mental health consequences of their injuries, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs) use innovative and effective patient-focused strategies to break that cycle and reduce rates for violent injury recidivism. Founded in 2009, the NNHVIP represents over 35 hospital-based violence intervention programs across the United States. Our members provide services to violently injured individuals beginning in hospital settings and extend care beyond hospitalization and into the community. Evaluations have repeatedly demonstrated that integrating HVIP services into hospital trauma centers corresponds with reductions in rates of injury recidivism and long-term increases in patients’ wellbeing.

However, more research is needed to learn optimal strategies to care for this vulnerable patient population. We need to continue to develop innovative approaches to address sensitive issues

such as mental health and substance misuse. Current funding does not match the size and scope of our violence intervention efforts. Simply put, increased funding to research intervention helps us save lives.

For these reasons, we support the “End the Cycle of Violence Act of 2019.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fatimah Loren Muhammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "L".

Fatimah Loren Muhammad
Executive Director, NNHVIP