

## SAVIR Co-Sponsors Injury Prevention Congressional Briefing & Meets with Key Public Health Leaders

SAVIR members were busy advocating in Washington, D.C. last month! On Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, SAVIR was part of a collaboration of several injury and violence prevention stakeholder groups who met with Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin and Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Howard Koh. Organized by Safe States Alliance, the meeting's purpose was to express support for the newly released National Prevention Strategy, an evidence-based guide for cross sector collaboration in improving the nation's health. One of the Strategy's main priorities is Injury-Free Living. The group commended having injury and violence included as a national priority, and highlighted opportunities for collaboration. Participants emphasized the importance of injury and violence research, and expressed support for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Dr. Benjamin and Dr. Koh were extremely receptive and supportive of our efforts, and we look forward to working together to decrease the impact of violence and injury in our communities.

Earlier in the day, SAVIR co-hosted a successful Injury Prevention Congressional Briefing. The event was organized in partnership with The Campaign for Public Health Foundation (CPH) and several national injury and violence prevention groups, including the Safe States Alliance, the National Athletic Trainers Association, and Safe Kids USA.

The briefing brought together some of the nation's most respected leaders working to lower preventable injury and violence rates. Experts in the field will detail their research methods, provide case studies and discuss future trends for both intentional and unintentional injuries.

Briefing Panelists included:

- Dr. Linda C. Degutis, Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dr. Carolyn Fowler, appointee to the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and an assistant professor and evaluation coordinator at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
- Mr. Tom Julia, a parent advocate whose daughter, a Virginia Tech student, sustained injuries in 2007 during a carbon monoxide poisoning at her off-campus apartment

Video clips from the event are available on [You Tube](#). Topics covered include public health research, budgeting, texting and driving, and corporate partnerships. Also, covered in different segments are the presentations given by Dr. Degutis and Dr. Fowler.

In conjunction with the briefing CPH Foundation and injury partners release a **new [fact sheet on injury](#)**.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to join SAVIR in its advocacy efforts!

Sincerely,

The SAVIR Advocacy and Policy Committee