



THE
HEALTH ALLIANCE
for VIOLENCE
INTERVENTION

Dear Representatives Ruppertsberger and Kinzinger,

The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) is pleased to endorse and offer our support for **H.R. 5855 the “Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2020.”** This important piece of legislation would increase funding for trauma centers to expand services and conduct research for violence intervention programs.

Founded in 2009, the HAVI represents 40 hospital-based and hospital-linked member programs and over 30 emerging violence intervention programs across the United States. Our members provide services to violently injured individuals beginning in hospital settings and extend care after discharge and into the community. Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) vary in the specifics of their design and scope, but typically include a brief intervention in the emergency department or at the hospital bedside, followed by intensive community-based case management services in the months following the injury.

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. To date, our research has shown this model to be effective in reducing our patients’ risk of repeat injury or retaliatory violence leading to justice system involvement. 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.

Although the HAVI is actively researching these issues, the size, scope and current funding levels are insufficient to address the widespread nature of community violence and trauma. We believe strongly that the “Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act of 2020” provides greatly needed resources to better care for our patients and the greater community. We fully support the passage of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Fatimah Loren Muhammad
Executive Director
The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI)