

Massachusetts Prevent Injuries NOW! Network

February 11, 2008

The Hon. Robert DeLeo, Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Injury Prevention Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2009

Dear Chairman DeLeo:

As Chairman of the Massachusetts Prevent Injuries Now! Network (MassPINN), a coalition of more than 50 public health and public safety organizations devoted to reducing the amount and severity of injuries among Bay Staters, I write today to ask your support for continued funding of three existing line items in the Department of Public Health's budget.

The items in question are: \$350,000 for programs to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome (line item 4513-1124); a \$350,000 earmark for the statewide Poison Control Center under line item 4513-1000; and \$3.75 million for suicide prevention (line item 4513-1026).

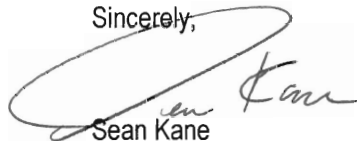
The Legislature wisely chose to make these accounts priorities for the current fiscal year, and Governor Patrick has included each of these appropriations in his FY '09 spending plan.

Each of these accounts has helped save the lives of Massachusetts residents in the past year, and on behalf of our Injury Prevention coalition, I request that the House Ways and Means Committee include in its upcoming budget the aforementioned appropriations already contained in House 2.

The Shaken Baby Syndrome funds will allow DPH and its partners to maintain and build upon the education and prevention programs instituted during the current fiscal year. The Poison Control Center urgently needs a continued appropriation by the Legislature to offset the 2007 cuts made at the federal level. And level-funding for the suicide prevention program will enable DPH to assist at-risk residents, including returning veterans, for another year.

I thank you for your attention to these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-252-2333 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sean Kane

Chairman Massachusetts PINN