

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 24, 2024

Dr. Matthew Miller,
Executive Director, Suicide Prevention
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
11MHSP
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

RE: Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut SSG Fox SPGP Proposal

Dear Dr. Miller,

We are proud to write in strong support of Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut's application for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP). Easterseals is a collaborative community organization which aims to provide and coordinate services for veterans, active servicemembers, and their families. The organization utilizes targeted outreach approaches to reduce incidents of suicide and to foster mental wellbeing among our country's service men and women, working tirelessly to provide accessible, convenient, and life-saving support. Easterseals serves as a cornerstone of veteran affairs and outreach throughout Eastern Connecticut, providing a safe and supporting environment for military families.

Easterseals has proven to be deeply invested in the safety and mental health of Connecticut military members and their families, specifically by integrating case management, early intervention programming, emergency clinical services, and coordinating with local service providers to deliver comprehensive and evidence-based care. Since the opening of the facility in 2021, staff have recorded more than 24,000 visits. Additionally, the organization's community-based prevention model creates an important and effective connection between the VA and community-based resources, facilitating comprehensive care for Connecticut residents across 41 towns.

Throughout its tenure, Easterseals has successfully created deep, meaningful community relationships, which have been utilized to meet the Suicide Prevention Initiative's goals of strengthening community action, collaboration, and reducing incidence of suicide. If awarded funding, we are confident that the coalition will continue to deliver impressive results throughout Eastern Connecticut, ensuring the health and safety of active military members, veterans, and their families.

We fully support the application submitted by Easterseals as they strive to continue providing servicemembers in Connecticut. Therefore, we request your full and fair consideration of this application. We thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
U.S. Senate



CHRIS MURPHY
U.S. Senate