



## RESOLUTION

MAY 2007

---

**Title: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency;

**WHEREAS**, the NCHS National Vital Statistics System is the oldest and most successful example of inter-governmental data sharing in Public Health wherein the NCHS collaborates with the 50 states, two cities, and five territories to collect and disseminate the Nation's official vital statistics, including births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and fetal deaths;

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, state laws require vital statistics to be registered and Federal law mandates national collection and publication of vital statistics data;

**WHEREAS**, the mission of NCHS is to provide statistical information that will guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people;

**WHEREAS**, vital statistics data have been collected for a long time period in the United States and are a fundamental source of demographic, geographic, cause-of-death, and birth information and is one of the few sources of comparable health-related data for states and small geographic areas;

**WHEREAS**, NCHS shares the costs incurred by the States in providing vital statistics data for national use and loss of these shared costs could negatively impact state-based collection of this data;

**WHEREAS**, NCHS vital statistics data is used to: document the health status of the population and of important subgroups; identify disparities in health status by race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, region, and other population characteristics; monitor trends in health status; provide information for making changes in public policies and programs; provide national data for comparisons of state analyses and for state rankings; and evaluate the impact of health policies and programs;

**WHEREAS**, since FY 2005, NCHS has lost \$13 million in purchasing power due to a

combination of flat funding from Congress and inflation;

**WHEREAS**, without a funding increase of at least \$3 million, NCHS will be unable to collect a complete year's worth of birth and death record; thus, the US would be the first industrialized nation unable to continuously collect birth, death, and other vital health information;

**WHEREAS**, funding shortfalls may also prevent the collection of data on many other key health care issues such as health insurance coverage, obesity, and health care costs;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Safe States Alliance strongly supports \$117 million for NCHS in FY 2008, an \$8 million increase over FY 2007.

**Date: May 2007**

**Revised June 22, 2010**