

February 12, 2020

Chairman Richard Shelby
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Roy Blunt
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Blunt, Vice Chair Leahy and Ranking Member Murray:

As you consider Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations for Fiscal Year FY (2021), the Trauma Coalition, a broad group of organizations representing the nations frontline trauma providers, writes to ask you to provide **\$11.5 million in funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program.**

In 2016, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a report titled, *"A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury."* This report suggests one of four military trauma deaths and one of five civilian trauma deaths could be prevented if advances in trauma care reach all injured patients. The report concludes that military and civilian integration is critical to saving these lives both on the battlefield and at home, preserving the hard-won lessons of war, and maintaining the nation's readiness and homeland security.

Section 204, of S. 1379, *the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (PAHPAI)*, known as the *MISSION ZERO Act* was signed into law June 24, 2019 (Public Law No: 116-22). *MISSION ZERO* takes the recommendations of the NASEM report to create a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grant program to cover the administrative costs of embedding military trauma professionals in civilian trauma centers. These partnerships will allow military trauma care teams and providers to gain exposure to treating critically injured patients and increase readiness for when these units are deployed. Similarly, best practices from the battlefield are brought home to further advance trauma care and provide greater civilian access.

By facilitating the implementation of military-civilian trauma partnerships, this program will preserve lessons learned from the battlefield, translate those lessons to civilian care, and ensure service members maintain their readiness to deploy in the future. We ask you to fully fund these lifesaving grants and include \$11.5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program.

Our organizations stand ready to work with you to support this critical effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Surgery of Trauma

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons

American Burn Association

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Surgeons

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Trauma Society

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Emergency Nurses Association

Society of Trauma Nurses

Trauma Center Association of America