

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Aderholt:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that the Subcommittee include \$11.5 million in funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant program in the FY24 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. As you know, this program was established by the Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act or "MISSION ZERO Act", which was authorized by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019. These grants provide funding to ensure trauma care readiness by integrating military trauma care providers into civilian trauma centers. We greatly appreciate the \$4 million in funding provided in FY23 and urge Congress to fully fund this critical program to improve the nation's response to public health and medical emergencies.

The MISSION ZERO Act stems from the June 2016 National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) report entitled "*A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.*" This report outlines 11 recommendations necessary to secure a national trauma system and sets the goal of achieving zero preventable deaths. Recommendation number 11 of the NASEM report calls for the establishment of military-civilian trauma partnerships to help further reduce the number of preventable traumatic deaths.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44, killing more Americans than AIDS and stroke combined. The continued funding provided for the MISSION ZERO Act grant will allow us to continue to save lives and enhance trauma training for our military healthcare personnel. In light of the continued challenges faced by our organizations, such as ongoing staffing shortages, burnout and wellness concerns, and insufficient capacity, it is even more critical that Congress provide the full authorized funding for MISSION Zero to allow military and civilian trauma professionals and hospitals to harness the benefits of this unprecedented and innovative program.

We are grateful for your consideration of this important request. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions or need additional information regarding funding for the MISSION ZERO Act grant program.

Sincerely,

American College of Surgeons
Trauma Center Association of America
American College of Emergency Physicians
Society of Trauma Nurses
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
EAST-The Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American Trauma Society
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma