

October 27, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Murray and Ranking Members Shelby and Blunt:

As you prepare to conference the final Fiscal Year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with the House of Representatives, we respectfully urge you to retain the funding level of \$10 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program.

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. By funding this critical program at \$10 million, we will 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 strokes combined. We are convinced that the funding provided by the MISSION ZERO Act will allow us to continue to save lives, enhance trauma training for our military healthcare personnel and help trauma centers manage and recover from mandatory furloughs of surgeons, nurses and other staff that were a direct result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

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 the MISSION ZERO Act.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Burn Association
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Trauma Society
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
Emergency Nurses Association
Society of Trauma Nurses
The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
Trauma Center Association of America