

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Members Granger and Cole:

We respectfully request that the Subcommittee considering including \$11.5 million in funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant program in the FY23 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. By fully funding this critical program, we will improve the nation's response to public health and medical emergencies and mitigate some of the worst impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on trauma centers, including but not limited to staffing shortages.

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. 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. In light of the ongoing public health crisis and the commensurate staffing shortages it brought to many trauma centers across the country, 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 the MISSION ZERO Act.

Sincerely,

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Surgeons

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Emergency Nurses Association

Trauma Association of America