

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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President
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President
BRIAN L. HOH, MD
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November 20, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for Trauma Readiness Grant Program

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

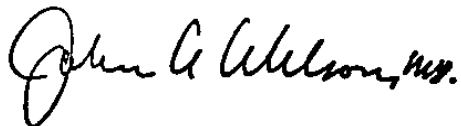
On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing more than 4,000 practicing in the United States, we write to support funding for military and civilian trauma readiness. Specifically, as you prepare the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations legislation, we respectfully urge you to retain the \$11.5 million House funding level for the Military and Civilian Partnership for Trauma Readiness Grant Program. Authorized by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (P.L. 116-22), this critical grant program will allow our country to enhance trauma training for our military health care personnel. The program will also simultaneously bolster civilian trauma care, thus saving lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44. Additionally, fatal traumatic injuries result in \$130 billion in total lifetime medical and work loss costs each year. A June 2016 report from the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) titled, "*A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury*," outlines several recommendations necessary to secure a national trauma system and sets the goal of achieving zero preventable deaths. The Military and Civilian Partnership for Trauma Readiness Grant Program was borne out of one recommendation calling for the establishment of military-civilian trauma partnerships to help further reduce the number of preventable traumatic deaths.

This grant program, known initially as MISSION ZERO, will provide funding to ensure trauma care readiness by integrating military trauma care providers into civilian trauma centers. These partnerships allow our military trauma care providers to gain exposure to treating critically injured patients in our communities and keep their skills sharp to increase readiness for deployment. Additionally, they allow our civilian trauma care providers to gain insight into best practices from the battlefield that can be integrated into civilian trauma care. By fully funding this critical grant program at \$11.5 million in the final FY21 appropriations legislation, we will improve the nation's response to public health and medical emergencies.

On behalf of the AANS and the CNS, we thank you for considering our request. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



John A. Wilson, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons



Brian L. Hoh, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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