

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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President
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BRIAN L. HOH, MD
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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

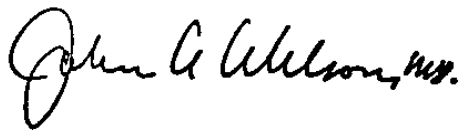
On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we write to request \$11.5 million in funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program in the Fiscal Year 2022 Senate Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations legislation. Authorized in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (P.L.116-22), this critical grant program will allow us to enhance trauma training for our military health care personnel while simultaneously bolstering civilian trauma care and saving lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 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 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 the 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, 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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