

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education Appropriations
Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We respectfully request the inclusion of \$11.5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program authorized in the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (PAHPAI). This grant known as MISSION Zero, provides funding to civilian trauma centers to train and incorporate military trauma care providers and teams into these critical care centers.

The MISSION Zero provision in PAHPAI authorized \$11.5 million for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, but unfortunately, this initiative has gone unfunded for the last three fiscal years. MISSION Zero should be fully funded in fiscal year 2022 to implement and achieve the goal of the grants to build military-civilian partnerships that will improve the nation's response to public health and medical emergencies.

The bipartisan 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 recommendations necessary to secure a national trauma system and sets the goal of achieving zero preventable deaths. One recommendation 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 44 years old, killing more Americans than AIDS and stroke combined. These military-civilian partnerships will allow military trauma care teams and providers to gain exposure treating critically injured patients, while also increasing readiness for when these units are deployed.

We have already seen successful examples of partnerships inspired by MISSION Zero, including Tampa General Hospital, West Central Florida's only Level 1 trauma center, and the 6th Medical Group from MacDill Air Force Base, and the San Antonio Military Medical Center's

collaboration with residents from the University of Texas, San Antonio. As seen in Florida and Texas, these partnerships fill gaps in staffing shortages, while allowing for best practices from the battlefield to be brought home to further advance access to trauma care for civilians. Fully funding the MISSION Zero Act will save lives and enhance trauma training for our military health care personnel.

We respectfully request that MISSION Zero be funded at the statutory amount of \$11.5 million for fiscal year 2022. Once funded, this grant program would ensure that through military-civilian partnerships, the medical workforce is prepared for future health emergencies at home and abroad. We are grateful for your consideration of this important request. Please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Lenz at Catherine.Lenz@mail.house.gov in Congressman Burgess's office, or Elizabeth Brown at Elizabeth.Brown@mail.house.gov in Congresswoman Castor's office if you have any questions or need additional information regarding the MISSION Zero Act.

Sincerely,



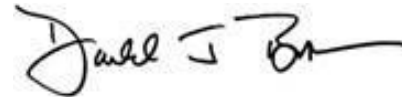
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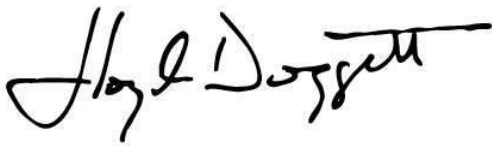


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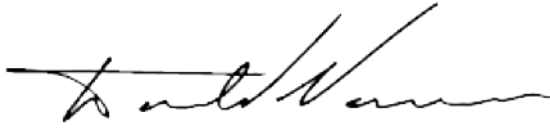
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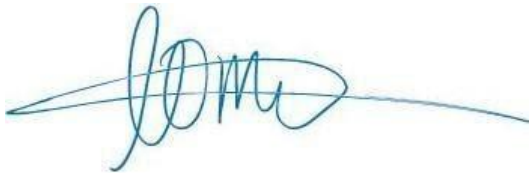
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