

Trauma Coalition
Outside Witness Testimony, Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations

**Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education, and Related Agencies**

Department of Health and Human Services
22 May 2020

As you consider Labor Health and Human Services appropriations for Fiscal Year FY (2021), the Trauma Coalition, a broad group of organizations representing the nations frontline trauma providers, writes to ask the Committee to provide **\$11.5 million in funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program.**

In 2016, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a report titled, “*A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.*” This report finds that one of four military trauma deaths and one of five civilian trauma deaths could be prevented if advances in trauma care reach all injured patients. In the report, the National Academies recommended that the United States adopt an overall aim for trauma care of “zero preventable deaths after injury,” and sets forth elements of system redesign that would provide military personnel with real-world training and experience at civilian trauma centers. This training has the dual benefit of maintaining military surgical battle readiness between wars while at the same time improving civilian access to trauma care. The report concludes that military and civilian integration is critical to saving these lives both on the battlefield and at home, preserving the hard-won lessons of war, and maintaining the nation’s readiness and homeland security.

Section 204, of S. 1379, *the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019* (PAHPAI), known as the *MISSION ZERO Act* was signed into law June 24, 2019 (Public Law No: 116-22). *MISSION ZERO* takes the recommendations of the NASEM report to create a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grant program to cover the administrative costs of embedding military trauma professionals in civilian trauma centers. These partnerships will allow military trauma care teams and providers to gain experience treating critically injured patients and increase readiness for when these units are deployed. Similarly, best practices from the battlefield are brought home to further advance trauma care and provide greater civilian access.

When it comes to trauma care, a symbiotic military/civilian partnership of training, education, and memorializing this knowledge and skill has long existed. By facilitating the implementation of military-civilian trauma partnerships and growing and strengthening this collaboration, this program will preserve lessons learned from the battlefield, translate those lessons to civilian care, and ensure service members maintain their readiness to deploy in the future.

We ask you to fully fund these lifesaving grants and include \$11.5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program. This funding will allow military

and civilian trauma professionals and hospitals to harness the benefits of this unprecedented and innovative program.

Our organizations stand ready to work with you to support this critical effort. Thank you for your consideration.

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Burn Association

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Surgeons

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Trauma Society

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Emergency Nurses Association

National Trauma Institute

The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Trauma Center Association of America

Society of Trauma Nurses