



September 21, 2018



The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, House Committee on
Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Senators Alexander & Murray and Representatives Walden and Pallone:



On behalf of the Trauma Coalition, a broad group of organizations representing the nation's frontline trauma care providers, we thank you for including the Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths (MISSION ZERO) Act in the 2018 reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). We urge you to retain MISSION ZERO as part of the final PAHPA legislation with an authorization level of \$15 million per fiscal year, as included in the House version of PAHPA (H.R. 6378).



This legislation is necessary in order to maintain the experience, knowledge and advances in trauma care that our military has gained on the battlefield. The courageous men and women who cared for our warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan were able to achieve unprecedented survival rates for casualties arriving at a military facility, reaching as high as 98 percent. It is critically important that we do everything possible to maintain the readiness of these expert military trauma clinicians and MISSION ZERO was developed in order to achieve this very worthwhile goal.



The MISSION ZERO concept was born in 2016 when the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NAEM) released its landmark report, *A National Trauma System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths after Injury*. 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 set 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.



With the drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq, the nation once again has an opportunity to benefit from the lessons learned about trauma care during the past 16 years of war while also providing essential trauma services to the civilians who need it most.



We thank you for your leadership and urge you to retain and fully fund MISSION ZERO in the final version of PAHPA to ensure that our military and civilian trauma care providers can provide the best possible care.

Sincerely,

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Burn Association

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Trauma Society

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Emergency Nurses Association

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Society of Trauma Nurses

Trauma Center Association of America