



## **Congress Must Ensure the Long-Term Sustainability of the Nation's Trauma Centers**

### **Re-Authorize and Fully Fund The MISSION Zero Program**

- The MISSION Zero program provides grants to civilian trauma centers for the costs of enabling military trauma care teams to provide trauma and related care at civilian trauma centers.
- The MISSION Zero grant program has allowed trauma centers to continue saving lives, enhanced trauma training for our military health care personnel, helped trauma centers manage and recover from the mandatory furloughs of surgeons, nurses, and other staff during the pandemic, and allows military trauma providers to maintain their clinical skills while they are not deployed.
- As recognized in a March 2025 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, the military must improve its trauma care readiness, as Chairman Roger Wicker noted that only 10 percent of general military surgeons meet readiness standards.
- MISSION Zero's authorization has expired but was included in each chamber's *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act's* (PAHPA) reauthorization bills in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. In FY 2024, Congress funded MISSION Zero at \$4 million.
- In March 2025, Reps. Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Richard Hudson (R-NC) introduced H.R. 2414, the *MISSION Zero Reauthorization Act*, that would reauthorize MISSION Zero through 2029.

***Cosponsor H.R. 2414, the MISSION Zero Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize the MISSION Zero program through 2029. In addition, we urge Congress, in FY 2026, to ensure that MISSION Zero is appropriated at its fully authorized amount of \$11.5 million.***

### **Fully Fund the Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act Grants**

- Trauma system readiness is essential for ensuring that individuals who experience traumatic injury receive prompt and appropriate care. A well-coordinated and efficient trauma system can significantly improve patient outcomes, reduce mortality rates, and prevent long-term disabilities. In the event of a mass casualty incident or a natural disaster, a ready and well-functioning trauma system is crucial in providing rapid and effective care to those in need.
- *The Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act*, a component part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, authorized appropriations of \$24 million per year for the purposes of awarding competitive grants for trauma centers, awarding grants to improve trauma care in rural areas, and supporting trauma care readiness and coordination.
- We thank the Senate Committee on Appropriations for proposing to fund one of the grants authorized by the *Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act* in their FY 2025 appropriations bill.

***To ensure trauma systems can provide the highest quality of care, Congress must fully fund the grants in FY 2026 appropriations as authorized by the Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act at \$24 million.***

### **Ensure Trauma Centers' Ability to Provide Lifesaving Care by Protecting Medicaid**

- Trauma centers offer a specialized care that is not always available in emergency rooms but are obligated, ethically and legally, to treat all individuals with an emergency who come through their doors. Further, many trauma centers see a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients, whose reimbursement levels fall short of covering their full cost of care.
- Some recent proposals to reform and/or restructure the Medicaid program could disproportionately harm trauma centers given their obligation to treat all individuals.
- Federal funding cuts to Medicaid could increase the number of uninsured individuals and thereby trauma centers' uncompensated care costs to potentially untenable levels. Further, changes to Medicaid financing policies, such as to provider taxes and state directed payments, would further cut Medicaid reimbursement, jeopardizing hospitals' ability to provide trauma center services.

***Secure individuals' access to essential trauma care by ensuring Congress protects Medicaid funding.***

The Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) is dedicated to securing the economic viability of trauma centers and systems across the country. The Association's vision would result in access to optimal trauma care for all. TCAA supports and represents nearly 500 trauma centers across the country through advocacy, operations, finance, and educational opportunities. For more information, please visit [traumacenters.org](http://traumacenters.org).