



# TRAUMA CENTER

Association of America

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409 7th St, NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20004

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Sophia Grimm [sogrimm@deloitte.com](mailto:sogrimm@deloitte.com)  
Sarah Ngo [sarngo@deloitte.com](mailto:sarngo@deloitte.com)

On behalf of the Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on ASPR's Draft Guidelines for Regional Health Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems.

TCAA is a non-profit trade association dedicated to securing the viability of trauma centers and systems across the country. We actively work to foster a sustainable national system of trauma care and create access to optimal trauma care for all.

TCAA has had a long and productive relationship with ASPR as it relates to regional preparedness and response programs, including the Regional Disaster Health Response System (RDHRS), the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), and the national Trauma System. We are encouraged that the guidelines seek to build on these successful models. TCAA supports the need for guidelines that will form a foundation to start and strengthen additional regional health care partners for all-hazards planning. We agree that these efforts should include interstate coordination and integration in order to prepare and facilitate medical mutual aid across jurisdictions and health systems.

Trauma Centers often serve as the hub of a disaster response. As such, it is critical that they be adequately staffed and prepared at all times. That is why TCAA is working closely with Congress to develop legislation that will modernize, authorize and appropriate funding for federal trauma center and system grant programs. This funding will ultimately support TCAA and ASPR's preparedness and response goals by ensuring the viability of the trauma care infrastructure by funding key functions, such as staffing, training, technology, surge capacity, data collection, regional and state coordination.

We believe that ASPR's guidelines would be complementary to the goals of our trauma care and systems grant program since these are voluntary broad guidelines for the development of regional emergency response systems, and our legislation funds trauma centers and systems on a center by center and region by region basis. The regional trauma systems would presumably work closely with or be folded into ASPR's regional systems programs, which has already been piloted in several states. From TCAA's perspective, this makes our legislation even more important since there is very little emphasis on trauma in these guidelines.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ward  
President