



November 1, 2019

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable S. Chris Jones
House of Delegates of Virginia
P.O. Box 5059
Suffolk, Virginia 23435

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 2
Mount Solon, Virginia 22843

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 6205
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

Dear Governor Northam, Chairman Jones, and Co-Chairmen Hanger and Norment:

During the 2019 General Assembly Reconvened Session, an amendment to the budget was adopted to eliminate the practice of suspending drivers' licenses due to unpaid court fines and fees. In finalizing the amendment, the reinstatement fee related to the Virginia Trauma Center Fund was inadvertently zeroed out for FY 2020, thus leaving the Fund without any designated funding for FY20 and without a sustainable revenue source beyond FY20.

As discussed prior to the 2019 Reconvened Session, the elimination of funding for the Trauma Fund will negatively impact each of Virginia's nineteen trauma centers - which include six Level I adult centers (3 have obtained additional designations in pediatrics and/or burn), one stand-alone Level I pediatric center, six Level II adult centers, and six Level III adult centers. The Fund is a critically important source of funding for all of Virginia's trauma centers. Its purpose is to defray the costs of providing lifesaving emergency medical care to trauma patients and support the vast administrative infrastructure needed to provide such care.

Data collected from designated Virginia Trauma Centers on the impact eliminating trauma funds will have on their facility include the following:

- Designated Trauma Centers would need an alternative funding source for their trauma center administrative infrastructure to support required staff positions, including a trauma program manager and trauma registrar (required for every 750 trauma cases).
- Designated Trauma Centers would need an alternative funding source for costs associated with required staff training such as Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC) and trauma-specific education related to general surgery, orthopedics, neuroscience, progressive care, intensive care (ICU), pediatric intensive care (PICU), post-anesthesia care unit (PACU), operating rooms (OR), emergency department (ED), and pediatrics.
- Designated Trauma Centers would need an alternative funding source for their trauma registry software and maintenance and Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) reporting.
- Community outreach programs such as injury prevention and Stop the Bleed Campaigns would likely be eliminated.

We appreciate Governor Northam's commitment to fully restoring this much needed funding for FY20, and respectfully request full support of the Governor's proposal from the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Chairmen, as well as the entire General Assembly, in the upcoming legislative session.

Beyond addressing the more immediate short-term funding challenge for FY20, we respectfully request that support for a more sustainable and robust revenue source which will enhance the overall sustainability and protection of funding for trauma centers be included in the Governor's introduced 2021/2022 biennial budget. We again respectfully request full support of the Governor's proposal from the Finance and Appropriations Chairmen, as well as the entire General Assembly, in the upcoming legislative session.

Threats to the availability of adequate funding for trauma centers is not a new concept, which is one reason the Fund was initially established. We hope you agree that access to high-quality, well-staffed life-saving medical care and technology is of critical importance to the health and safety of all persons in the Commonwealth.

Thank you again for your leadership and support for Virginia's Trauma Centers.

Sincerely,

Virginia Trauma Providers:

Sean T. Connaughton
President and Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association

Jennifer Ward, MBA, BSN, RN
President
Trauma Center Association of America

Scott Hickey, MD, FACEP
President
Virginia Council of Emergency Physicians

HoChong S. Gilles, DNP, FNP-C
President
Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners

Janet Wall
Chief Executive Officer
Virginia Nurses Association

Virginia's Trauma Centers:

Michael P. McDermott, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer, Mary Washington Healthcare
➤ Mary Washington Hospital, Level II Trauma Center

Dan Freeman, MSN, RN, TCRN
Director – Trauma Services, Carilion Clinic
➤ Carilion Children's Hospital, Level I Pediatric Trauma Center
➤ Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, Level III Trauma Center
➤ Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Level I Trauma Center

Catherine Peterson
Trauma Program Manager, The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters
➤ The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, Level I Pediatric Trauma Center

Tim McManus

President, HCA Virginia Health System/HCA Capital Division

- Chippenham Hospital, Level I Trauma Center
- Henrico Doctors' Hospital, Level II Trauma Center
- Johnston-Willis Hospital, Level III Trauma Center
- LewisGale Hospital Montgomery, Level III Trauma Center
- Reston Hospital Center, Level II Trauma Center

J. Stephen Jones, MD, FACS

President and Chief Executive Officer, Inova

- Inova Fairfax Hospital, Level I Trauma Center
- Inova Loudoun Hospital, Level III Trauma Center

Michael Elliott

Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Centra Health

- Lynchburg General Hospital, Level II Trauma Center

Michael J. Doucette

President, Riverside Regional Medical Center

- Riverside Regional Medical Center, Level II Trauma Center

Michael V. Gentry

Executive Vice President and the Chief Operating Officer, Sentara Healthcare

- Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Level I Adult and Burn Trauma Center
- Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Level III Trauma Center

Trent E. Nobles, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer, Southside Regional Medical Center

- Southside Regional Medical Center, Level III Trauma Center

Chris A. Ghaemmaghami, MD

Chief Medical Officer, University of Virginia Health System

- University of Virginia Medical Center, Level I Trauma Center

Michel B. Aboutanos, MD, MPH, FACS

Medical Director, VCU Trauma Center

- VCU Health System, Level I Adult, Pediatric, and Burn Trauma Center

Grady W. (Skip) Philips III, FACHE

Senior Vice President, Valley Health; President, Winchester Medical Center

- Winchester Medical Center, Level II Trauma Center

Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers:

Blue Ride Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

Lord Fairfax Emergency Medical Services Council

Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council

Old Dominion Emergency Medical Services Council

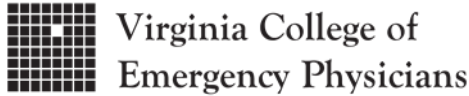
Peninsulas Emergency Medical Services Council
Rappahannock Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.
Richmond Ambulance Authority

Virginia Chambers of Commerce:

Brian Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, ChamberRVA
Susan Spears, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Terry Banez, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Williamsburg Business Alliance
Bryan K. Stephens, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hampton Roads Chamber
Sharon G. Scott, Ph.D., Executive Director, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
Julie Coons, President and Chief Executive Officer, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Tracy Baynard and Mark C. Looney, Co-Chairs, Public Policy Committee, Greater Reston Chamber
of Commerce
Joyce Waugh, President and Chief Executive Officer, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce
Robert S. McKenna, President and Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Peninsula Chamber of
Commerce

cc: The Honorable Daniel Carey, Secretary of Health and Human Resources
The Honorable Aubrey Lane, Secretary of Finance
The Honorable Marvin Figueroa, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources
The Honorable Joe Flores, Deputy Secretary of Finance
Ms. Susan Massart, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. Mike Tweedy, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Senate Finance Committee

Virginia Trauma Providers:



Virginia Trauma Centers:



Virginia EMS Providers:



Virginia Chambers of Commerce:

