



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

*Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

100+years

Chicago Headquarters
633 N. Saint Clair Street
Chicago, IL 60611-3295
Voice: 312-202-5000
Fax: 312-202-5001
E-mail: postmaster@facs.org

Washington Office
20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001
Voice: 202-337-2701
Fax: 202-337-4271
E-mail: djohnson@facs.org
facs.org

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November 2, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking
Member Cole:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I respectfully urge you ensure that report language directing \$5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the MISSION ZERO Trauma Readiness Grant Program is maintained in year-end spending legislation. ACS appreciates and thanks you for your leadership in recognizing the importance of funding the MISSION ZERO grants by including the following language as part of the FY Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Report:

Mission Zero.—The Committee includes \$5,000,000 for civilian trauma centers to train and incorporate military trauma care providers and teams into care centers.

Ensuring access to trauma care requires many crucial components including trauma centers and appropriately trained trauma surgeons, physicians and nurses. The military-civilian trauma care partnerships funded by the grant will allow military teams and surgeons to gain exposure to treating critically injured patients, thus increasing readiness for when these units are deployed. Just as military trauma providers learn from their civilian counterparts, the best practices learned on the battlefield are brought home to further advance trauma care and provide greater civilian access. By facilitating the implementation of military-civilian trauma partnerships the MISSION ZERO Trauma Readiness Grant Program will

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee on
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Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Labor,
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preserve lessons learned from the battlefield, translate those lessons to civilian trauma care, and ensure that service members maintain their readiness to deploy in the future.

As background, a 2016 report published by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) found that one in four military trauma deaths and one in five civilian trauma deaths could be prevented if advances in trauma care reach all injured patients. NASEM concludes that military and civilian integration is critical to saving lives both on the battlefield and at home, maintaining the nation's readiness and homeland security.¹ Following the report, The *MISSION ZERO Act* was signed into law on June 24, 2019 as part of S. 1279, *the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation (PAHPAI) Act* (Public Law No:116-22). Based on the recommendations of the NASEM report, the legislation created a grant program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish military-civilian partnerships by defraying the administrative costs of trauma centers to embed military trauma professionals into civilian trauma centers.

Maintaining this report language in year-end spending legislation signifies a strong commitment to public health preparedness, military readiness and access to critical trauma care for the nearly 45 million Americans who live more than hour away from a Level I or II trauma center. Please contact Amelia Suermann, asuermann@facs.org with any questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations and Labor-HHS Subcommittee

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Washington Office

20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001

Voice: 202-337-2701

Fax: 202-337-4271

E-mail: djohnson@facs.org

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¹ <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/23511/a-national-trauma-care-system-integrating-military-and-civilian-trauma>