

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We respectfully request the inclusion of \$11.5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program authorized in the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (PAHPAI). This grant program, known as MISSION Zero, provides grant funding to ensure trauma care readiness by integrating military trauma care providers into civilian trauma centers.

The MISSION Zero provision in PAHPAI authorized \$11.5 million for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, but unfortunately, this initiative was unfunded for the last two years. MISSION Zero should be fully funded this year in order to fully implement and achieve the mission of the grants to build military-civilian partnerships that will improve the nation's response to public health and medical emergencies. We have already seen successful examples of partnership that inspired MISSION Zero work such as the relationship between Tampa General Hospital, West Central Florida's only Level 1 trauma center, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Medical Group from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL.

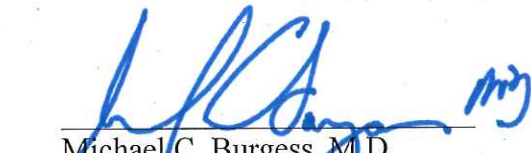
The bipartisan MISSION Zero Act stems from the June 2016 National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) report entitled, "*A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.*" This report outlines recommendations necessary to secure a national trauma system and sets the goal of achieving zero preventable deaths. One recommendation calls for the establishment of military-civilian trauma partnerships to help further reduce the number of preventable traumatic deaths.

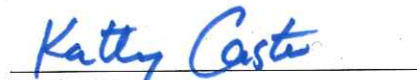
These partnerships will allow military trauma care teams and providers to gain exposure to treating critically injured patients and increase readiness for when these units are deployed. Additionally, best practices from the battlefield are brought home to further advance trauma care and provide greater civilian access.

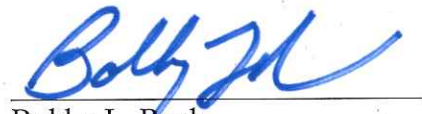
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44, killing more Americans than AIDS and stroke combined. Fully funding the MISSION Zero Act will save lives and enhance trauma training for our military health care personnel.

We respectfully request that MISSION Zero be funded at the statutory amount of \$11.5 million for fiscal year 2021. Once funded, this grant program will save lives across the country and where our warfighters serve. We are grateful for your consideration of this important request. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions or need additional information regarding the MISSION Zero Act. Should your staff have any questions regarding the System, please contact Casey Patchunka at [Casey.Patchunka@mail.house.gov](mailto:Casey.Patchunka@mail.house.gov) in Congressman Burgess' office or Elizabeth Brown at [Elizabeth.Brown@mail.house.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Brown@mail.house.gov) in Congresswoman Castor's office.

Sincerely,


  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

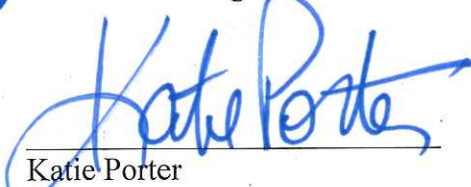
  
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress