



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

*Inspiring Quality:
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

100+years

Funding for MISSION ZERO

Support \$11.5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program as part of the FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education funding bill.

Trauma, including car crashes, falls, head injuries, burns, and firearm injuries, is the leading cause of death in America for those ages 44 and younger and accounts for more years of life lost and disability than any other disease, including cancer and heart disease. Unfortunately, nearly 45 million Americans live in areas more than an hour away from either a Level I or II trauma center. Ensuring access to trauma care requires many crucial components including trauma centers and appropriately trained physicians and nurses, all of which must dedicate extensive resources around the clock so that seriously injured patients have the best possible chance for survival.

In 2016, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a report titled, *“A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.”* This report suggests one of four military trauma deaths and one of five civilian trauma deaths could be prevented if advances in trauma care reach all injured patients. The report concludes that military and civilian integration is critical to saving these lives both on the battlefield and at home, preserving the hard-won lessons of war, and maintaining the nation’s readiness and homeland security.

The *MISSION ZERO Act* was signed into law on June 24th, 2019 as part of S. 1279, *the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation (PAHPAI) Act*. (Public Law No:116-22)

- MISSION ZERO takes the recommendations of the NASEM report to create a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) grant program to cover the administrative costs of embedding military trauma professionals in civilian trauma centers.
- These military-civilian trauma care 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.

Congressional Action

The ACS encourages Congress to fully fund MISSION ZERO at the authorized amount of \$11.5 million as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations package.