



May 5, 2023

The Honorable Ben Cardin
U.S. Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD
U.S. Senate
479A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cardin and Marshall:

On behalf of the more than 87,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), thank you for your continued leadership in introducing the *Bipartisan Solution to Cyclical Violence Act* (S. 1447). This important legislation would increase funding to expand services and conduct research for hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs).

Violence is a major public health issue that disproportionately affects our most vulnerable populations. The ACS Committee on Trauma verifies over five hundred trauma centers in the U.S. which provide care for a range of traumatic injuries, including interpersonal violence. For survivors of violence, repeat injury is exceedingly common. However, violence prevention services have been shown to improve patients' recovery and decrease the risk of re-injury.

HVIPs are multidisciplinary programs that identify patients at risk of repeat violent injury and link them with hospital and community-based resources aimed at addressing the underlying risk factors for violence. HVIPs have demonstrated success and value by mitigating the risk factors associated with violence and significantly reducing violent injury recidivism. As such, ACS published a primer in 2017 to assist hospitals and trauma centers in developing comprehensive violence intervention programs in their facilities.

ACS has long believed in the importance of injury prevention and recognizes the unique role hospitals play in addressing interpersonal violence through HVIPs. Thank you again for introducing S. 1447. ACS looks forward to working with you to expand and fund these important injury prevention programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Turner", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS
Executive Director & CEO

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