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February 19, 2020

The Honorable Bob Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Boozman:

On behalf of the more than 82,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write in support of the *Prevent Blood Loss with Emergency Equipment Devices (BLEEDing) Act of 2020*. This legislation is a critical first step in empowering civilians to take life-saving action when the need arises, regardless of the situation or cause of significant or traumatic bleeding. The ACS partnered with law enforcement and other interested national organizations to develop the Hartford Consensus. Out of this Consensus emerged the Stop the Bleed® program, along with an emergency response goal to improve victims' survival following a mass casualty event or bleeding emergency.

Each year, more than 180,000 people die from traumatic injuries sustained as a result of events including vehicle crashes, falls, industrial and farm accidents, shootings, and natural disasters. The most common preventable cause of these deaths is hemorrhage in the minutes before trained first responders arrive. Just like with CPR training, a civilian familiar with basic bleeding control techniques is better equipped to save a life. The effort to make this training and bleeding control kits available to the public through a Department of Homeland Security grant program will help to drive the goal of reducing or eliminating preventable death from bleeding.

The ACS believes that the grant program should ensure that eligible entities are procuring only high-quality tourniquets and other bleeding control supplies, such as products approved by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and the Department of Defense (DoD) Combat Casualty Research Program, in order to prevent a scenario where a poorly made device might fail and not adequately stop severe bleeding.

The ACS strongly supports the Prevent BLEEDing Act and thanks you for your efforts and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director