

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, &  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

We are writing to urge you to include \$12 million for the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act in the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Congress unanimously passed the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act in 2007. In doing so, it acted on the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine to support coordinated and regionalized trauma care systems at federal, state, and local levels—modeled on existing trauma care systems. Providing \$12 million for this law will leverage states' ability to plan, implement, and develop vital trauma care systems, which are necessary to respond to deadly natural disasters, terrorist threats, chemical spills, and other emergencies.

Injury remains the leading cause of death for Americans aged 1 through 44. Moreover, caring for trauma injuries is costly. In 2006, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) determined that trauma injuries are the second most expensive health care condition, costing our country approximately \$68 billion.

However, half the states in the country are still without a statewide trauma care system. Federal resources are necessary to enable faster emergency response time and the transportation of seriously-injured individuals to the appropriate trauma center hospital within the "golden hour" – the time period when medical intervention is most effective in saving lives and functional abilities.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, and for your continuing support of these important goals.



Jack Reed  
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator