

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2005

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Chair
The Honorable Tom Harkin, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Senate Committee on Appropriations
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Ranking Member Harkin:

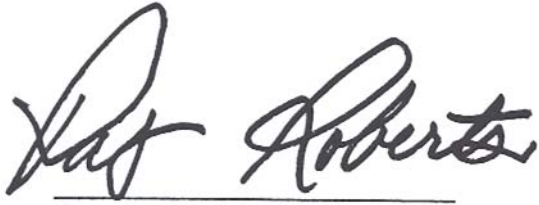
We would like to express our strong support for continued funding for Title XII of the Public Health Service Act – specifically those provisions established under the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act. This aspect of Title XII authorizes federal grants to states for the purpose of planning, implementing, and developing statewide trauma care systems. We are requesting that the Subcommittee provide \$3.5 million for this program for fiscal year 2006.

Injury is the leading cause of death for Americans from age one through 44. In addition to potential terrorist threats, the U.S. has also recently experienced a number of natural disasters: tornados and hurricanes, mudslides, and a derailing in South Carolina resulting in a deadly chemical spill. The nation's trauma and emergency medical systems are designed to respond quickly and efficiently to get 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 saving function. Achieving this requires constant attention to maintaining and coordinating organized systems of trauma care in every community in every state.

Over the last several years, this program has been funded at approximately \$3.5 million. Despite this funding, half the states in the country are still without a statewide trauma care system. Clearly, we can do better in our efforts to respond to a number of goals put forth by the Institute of Medicine in 1999, particularly that Congress "support a greater national commitment to, and support of, trauma care systems at the federal, state, and local levels."

While we support increased funding for this program, we appreciate the current budgetary realities and therefore urge you to include \$3.5 million in your Chairman's mark for FY 2006 for Title XII programs promoting statewide trauma care systems.

Sincerely,



Senator Pat Roberts



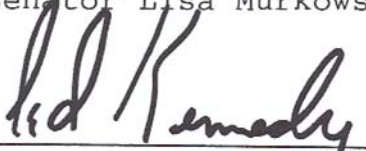
Senator Mary Landrieu



Senator Ben Nelson



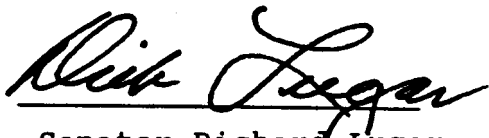
Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Edward Kennedy



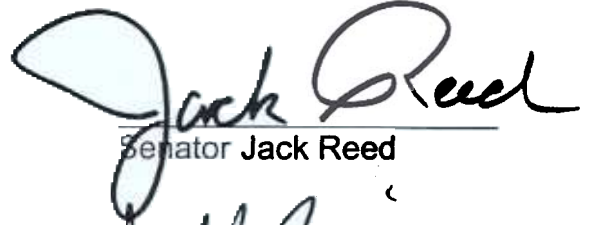
Senator Paul Sarbanes



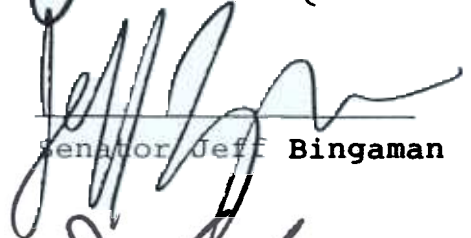
Senator Richard Lugar



Senator Byron Dorgan



Senator Jack Reed



Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator Joe Lieberman



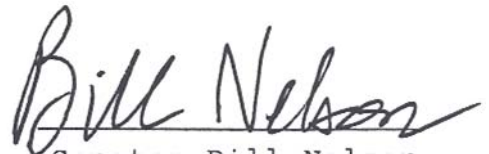
Senator Jon Corzine



Senator Lamar Alexander



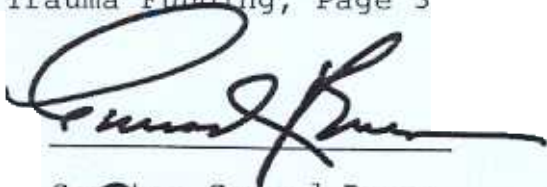
Senator Frank Lautenberg



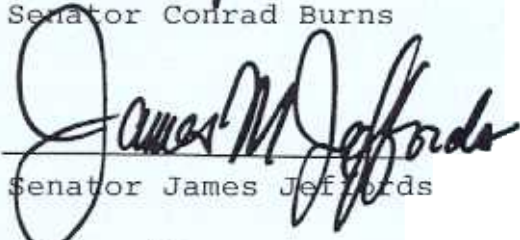
Senator Bill Nelson



Senator Barbara Mikulski




Senator Conrad Burns



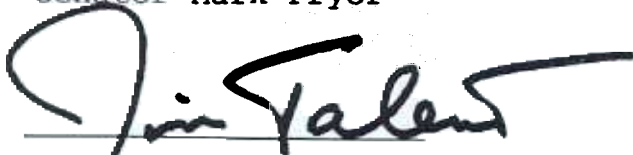
Senator James Jeffords



Senator Richard Durbin



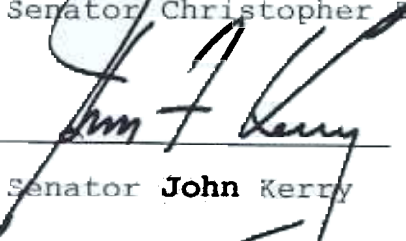
Senator Mark Pryor



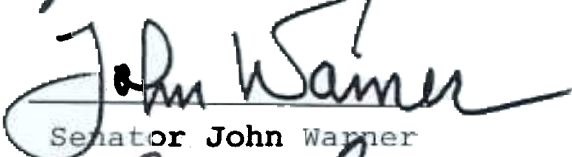
Senator Jim Talent



Senator Christopher Dodd



Senator John Kerry



Senator John Warner



Senator Carl Levin



Senator Lincoln Chafee



Senator Blanche Lincoln




Senator Craig Thomas



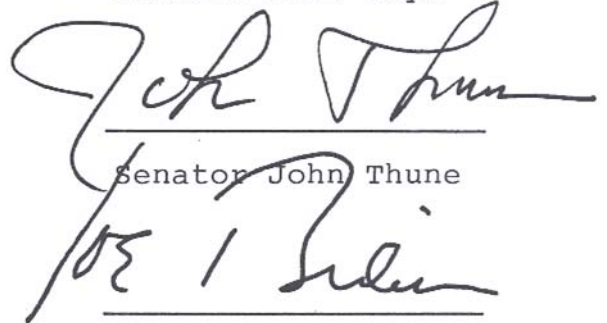
Senator Ron Wyden



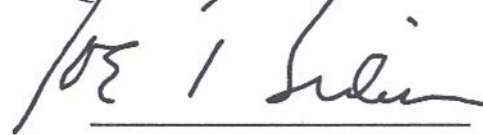
Senator Elizabeth Dole



Senator Evan Bayh



Senator John Thune



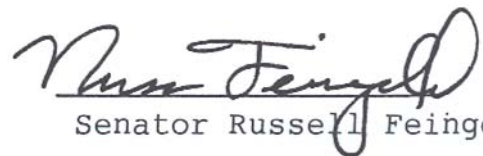
Senator Joe Biden



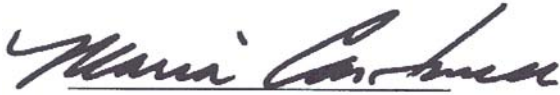
Senator George Allen



Senator Patty Murray



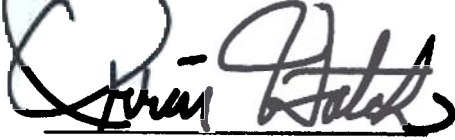
Senator Russell Feingold



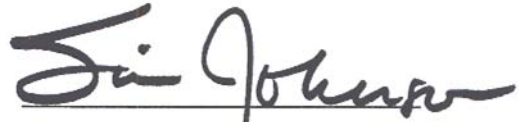
Senator Maria Cantwell



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator Orrin Hatch



Senator Tim Johnson



Senator Johnny Isakson



Senator Mark Dayton
