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June 10, 2019

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
U.S. House of Representatives
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ruppertsberger,

On behalf of the more than 80,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), I write in support of H.R. 2464, the *End the Cycle of Violence Act of 2019*. The research supported by this legislation will play a critical role in documenting the success of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs) and will create a road map for new programs to follow.

Injuries resulting from interpersonal violence in the U.S. are all too common. Nearly 1.5 million nonfatal injuries occur annually amongst individuals between the ages of 15 and 34, and the direct and indirect cost of these injuries is approximately \$12 billion. Trauma centers stand on the front lines of the interpersonal violence epidemic. With injury recidivism rates as high as 55 percent, trauma surgeons and other advocates are exploring ways to close this revolving door to decrease violent injury, similar to the methods that have been used effectively to reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

HVIPs are multidisciplinary programs that identify patients at risk of repeat violent injury and link them with hospital and community-based resources aimed to address underlying risk factors for violence, such as mental health and social determinants of health. Data indicate the HVIPs reduce violent injury recidivism, as well as hospital costs, but more research is needed in order to better target these efforts and help spread them to areas of need around the country.

Trauma surgeons are frequently the ones treating victims of interpersonal violence. ACS believes that HVIPs located in, or partnering with, verified trauma centers can play a critical role in reducing reinjury and death by creating a way out of this cycle. Thank you for your efforts and leadership on this issue, ACS strongly supports the *End the Cycle of Violence Act*.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director

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