



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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March 14, 2018

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Isakson, Duckworth, and Cornyn:

On behalf of the more than 80,000 members of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), we would like to express our strong support for the *Mission Zero Act*. This legislation is a great step in creating comprehensive trauma programs that will have profound benefits to our civilian and military trauma patients, both domestically and abroad. Given the recent passage of the *Mission Zero Act* in the House, we urge the Senate to build upon this momentum and pass the legislation.

The ACS, our Committee on Trauma (COT), and our Military Health System Strategic Partnership strongly support strengthening our nation's trauma care system and are proud to endorse this legislation. The ACS has been a longstanding partner with stakeholders, including Congress, in developing an integrated civilian and military trauma system with the goal of eliminating preventable death after injury.

It has been a priority of the ACS and our COT to establish and maintain high-quality and adequately-funded trauma systems throughout the United States, including within the Armed Forces.

Increasing military civilian partnerships is a critical step toward achieving the goal of zero preventable injury deaths after injury. Creating a grant program to assist civilian trauma centers in partnering with military trauma professionals establishes a pathway to provide patients with the highest quality of trauma care in times of peace and war. This is accomplished by ensuring that our military

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medical corps is kept in a constant state of readiness for deployment to conflicts, humanitarian needs, or to natural or man-made disasters.

We appreciate the inclusion of the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) as part of the data reporting requirements in the *Mission Zero Act*. The measuring and recording of trauma health care data is the cornerstone of advancing trauma care and we are pleased with the role TQIP plays in the data collection process. Overall, the collection and interpretation of trauma data will help to identify unique characteristics at trauma facilities and improve patient outcomes on a global scale.

The ACS believes that the *Mission Zero Act* is a positive first step in the process of ensuring that trauma systems, centers, and health care providers are able to meet the needs of all Americans. We thank you for your leadership on this significant legislation and stand ready to work with you toward final passage in the Senate.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director, American College of Surgeons

Cc: U.S. Senate

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