

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray,

As you prepare to conference the final Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with the House, we respectfully urge you to retain the House funding level of \$11.5 million for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program authorized in the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act [Public Law No. 116-22]. Fully funding this critical grant program will allow us to enhance trauma training for our military health care personnel while simultaneously bolstering civilian trauma care and saving lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44. Additionally, fatal traumatic injuries result in \$130 billion in total lifetime medical and work loss costs each year. A June 2016 report from National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NAEM) entitled "*A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury*" outlines a number of recommendations necessary to secure a national trauma system and sets the goal of achieving zero preventable deaths. The Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant Program was borne out of a recommendation calling for the establishment of military-civilian trauma partnerships to help further reduce the number of preventable traumatic deaths.

This grant program, originally known as MISSION ZERO, will provide funding to ensure trauma care readiness by integrating military trauma care providers into civilian trauma centers. These partnerships allow our military trauma care providers to gain exposure to treating critically injured patients in our communities and keep their skills sharp to increase readiness for deployment. Additionally, they allow our civilian trauma care providers to gain insight into best practices from the battlefield that can be integrated into civilian trauma

care. By fully funding this critical grant program at \$11.5 million in the final FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we will improve the nation's response to public health and medical emergencies.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator