

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to respectfully request the Subcommittee include \$11.5 million in funding for the Military and Civilian Partnership for the Trauma Readiness Grant program in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 2027) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. More commonly known as MISSION Zero, this grant program provides funding to civilian trauma centers to train and incorporate military trauma care providers and teams into these critical care centers. While we appreciate the inclusion of \$4 million in funding for MISSION Zero in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026*, we believe full funding will allow the 25 existing grantees to expand their programs and allow additional trauma centers to succeed in this critical program.

As you know, this program was established by the bipartisan Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act, or “MISSION ZERO Act”, which was authorized by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019. That legislation stemmed from the June 2016 National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report entitled, “*A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.*” This report outlines 11 recommendations necessary to secure a national trauma system and sets the goal of achieving zero preventable deaths. One recommendation calls for the establishment of military-civilian trauma partnerships to help further reduce the number of preventable traumatic deaths.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional injury, which often involves trauma, is the leading cause of death for children and adults under age 44. We know the funding provided by the MISSION ZERO Act will allow us to continue to advance access to trauma care for civilians, enhance trauma training for our military health care providers, and help trauma centers manage the workforce staffing shortages that our nation is currently facing.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of our request to fund MISSION Zero at the authorized level of \$11.5 million in FY 2027. Funding for this initiative will help ensure the medical workforce is well-equipped to treat patients, affording civilians the chance to learn more about military best practices and giving military providers the opportunity to hone their cutting-edge expertise without leaving the military.

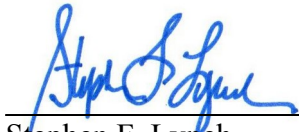
Sincerely,



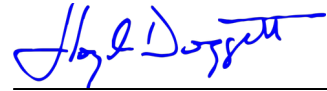
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



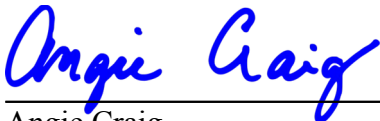
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



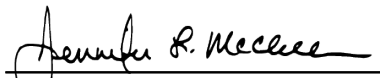
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



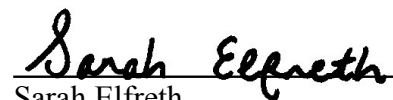
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



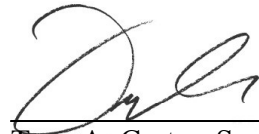
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



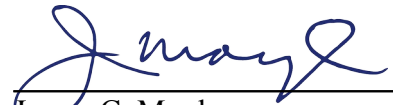
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress