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Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sending the attached letter to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) requesting \$11.5 million in funding for military-civilian trauma partnerships, which benefits our servicemembers as well as our civilian population.

As you may know, the MISSION Zero Act, the Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths Act, was authorized in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (PAHPAI) and provides grant funding to civilian trauma centers to train and incorporate military trauma care providers and teams into these critical care centers. The MISSION Zero provision in PAHPAI authorized \$11.5 million for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, but unfortunately, this initiative has gone unfunded for the last three years. These military-civilian partnerships will allow military trauma care teams and providers to gain exposure treating critically injured patients, while also increasing readiness for when these units are deployed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the leading cause of death for children and adults under 44 years old, killing more Americans than AIDS and stroke combined. These partnerships fill gaps in staffing shortages, while allowing for best practices from the battlefield to be brought home to further advance access to trauma care for civilians. Fully funding the MISSION Zero Act will save lives and enhance trauma training for our military health care personnel.

We are grateful for your consideration of this important request. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff, Catherine Lenz with Congressman Burgess at Catherine.Lenz@mail.house.gov or Elizabeth Brown with Congresswoman Castor at Elizabeth.Brown@mail.house.gov, if you would like to sign on or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Congresswoman Kathy Castor