

March 26, 2004

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

The undersigned organizations urge your strong support for increased funding for Title XII of the Public Health Service Act, which promotes state trauma care system planning and development. Last year, Congress approved \$3.5 million for this program for fiscal year (FY) 2004. This money has allowed the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide funding to all 50 states and five territories to establish or update state trauma plans and trauma registries, explore possible trauma and emergency medical services (EMS) legislation, convene stakeholders' committees, and develop statewide trauma protocols, among other initiatives.

For the past six years, Representatives James Greenwood (R-PA) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) have organized letters of support for the program that have been signed by over 180 different Members of the House, including Representatives Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Richard Burr (R-NC), Philip Crane (R-IL), John Dingell (D-MI), Pete Stark (D-CA), and James Walsh (R-NY). Similar letters have been organized by Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR), Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), Bill Frist, MD (R-TN), Pat Roberts (R-KS), and Jack Reed (D-RI), and gained the support of a tripartisan group of over 55 Senators including Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD), Charles Grassley (R-IA), James Jeffords (I-VT), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and John Warner (R-VA).

In light of current concerns regarding homeland security and emergency preparedness, it is critical that the federal government increase its commitment to strengthening Title XII programs governing trauma care system planning and development. Over the last three years, this program has been funded at \$3.5 million per year. Yet, despite this investment, one-half of the states in this country are still without a statewide trauma care system. Clearly, we can do better in our efforts to respond to the goals put forth by the 1999 Institute of Medicine report, *Reducing the Burden of Injury* -particularly that Congress "support a greater national commitment to, and support of, trauma care systems at the federal, state, and local levels."

Increased funding for trauma care systems planning and development will complement the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security by assuring that all states have the needed resources to develop and implement the trauma care system plans that are such an integral component of our Nation's public health infrastructure and the ability to respond to emergencies in our communities.

For this reason, we urge to you to sign the Greenwood/Gutierrez or Roberts/Reed letters that are currently circulating in the House and Senate expressing support for Title XII programs promoting state trauma care system planning and development. To add your name to the Senate letter, please contact either Lisa Meyer with Sen. Roberts at (4-3263) or Dr. Harsh Trivedi with Sen. Reed at (4-5083). To add you name to the House letter, please contact Alan Eisenberg with Rep. Greenwood at (5-4276) or Kellie Larkin with Rep. Gutierrez at (5-8230).

Sincerely,

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Surgeons  
American Hospital Association  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Nurses Association  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
Emergency Nurses Association  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Society of Critical Care Medicine