

July 11, 2005

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
Chairman  
Senate Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Specter:

**The undersigned organizations today urge you to support continued funding for the Trauma-EMS program at the current level of \$3.5 million in the Senate Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee mark-up tomorrow.**

On June 9, 2005 the House Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations failed to recognize the absolute necessity of funding for the only federal source available to build trauma system infrastructure in the U.S., the Trauma-EMS Program Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Your continued leadership in recognizing the importance of trauma care in saving lives and the need to ensure that these systems are available to all Americans is needed now more than ever.

The Trauma-EMS program provides critical national leadership and leverages additional scarce state dollars to strengthen trauma systems so that seriously injured individuals, wherever they live, receive prompt emergency transport to the nearest appropriate trauma center within the "golden hour." Receiving appropriate, quality trauma care within one hour of injury saves lives and provides the best chance for a good recovery. Achieving this result takes coordination, commitment of staff, development and implementation of standards of care, a process for designating trauma centers, and evaluation.

Currently, only eight states have fully developed trauma systems; twelve states do not even have the authority to designate trauma centers. When the American public is asked about its views on trauma centers and trauma systems large majorities value them as highly as having a police or fire department in their community. The attached ad, which ran in *Roll Call* on June 6<sup>th</sup>, summarizes this and other key findings of a recent Harris Poll assessing the public's views and perception of importance of trauma systems.

We urge you to keep the momentum moving forward and help us finish this important task so that all Americans wherever they live in every state have access to quality trauma care.

Sincerely,

Advocates for EMS  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Surgeons  
American Hospital Association  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Trauma Society  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation  
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
Emergency Nurses Association  
National Foundation for Trauma Care  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America

**Report Language Requested for FY 2006:**

*Trauma Care*

The Committee provides \$3,500,000 for trauma/emergency medical services. The fiscal year 2005 comparable level was \$3,449,000 and the administration did not request funds for this program for fiscal year 2006. This crucial program provides grants to states to support the development and enhancement of the basic infrastructure of trauma systems. It is intended to improve the Nation's overall trauma care systems, which are constantly activated to respond to a wide range of natural and man-made disasters.