

# THE COALITION FOR AMERICAN TRAUMA CARE

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June 26, 2006

The Honorable William Frist, MD  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for American Trauma Care's Advisory Council, and other trauma-interested organizations, strongly support passage of S. 265, the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act, and applaud your leadership in sponsoring the bill and working for its passage in the Senate. As you know, this legislation would reauthorize the Health Resources & Services Administration's (HRSA) Trauma-EMS Program, which authorizes grants to states to plan, implement, and develop statewide trauma care systems. We sincerely appreciate your continued leadership in recognizing the importance of these systems of care in saving lives.

Last week, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a comprehensive report addressing the current tragic situation that faces injured and ill Americans across the country. Hospital emergency departments and trauma centers are severely overcrowded and often physician specialists are unavailable to provide emergency and trauma care. The IOM is calling for a complete overhaul of our nation's emergency and trauma care by creating a coordinated and regionalized system of care modeled after the trauma care system program that S. 265 would reauthorize. According to the report, "The objective of regionalization is to improve patient outcomes by directing patients to facilities with optimal capabilities of any given type of illness or injury." The report further states, "Trauma systems provide a valuable model for how such coordination could and should operate."

S. 265 addresses these problems and is the first crucial step in ensuring that Americans receive the emergency care they expect and deserve. We urge swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Emergency Medicine  
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians

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American College of Surgeons  
American Hospital Association  
A O North America  
Association of Air Medical Services  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation  
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Intermountain Injury Control Research Center  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Society of Trauma Nurses

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