

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2018

Honorable Kay Granger, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you consider the defense medical research program for FY2019, we respectfully request that you include \$9.2 million in the Defense Health Program R&D account for the “National Trauma Research Action Plan,” or NTRAP. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) recommended the creation of the NTRAP in a seminal evaluation of trauma care and research in 2016. Study authors viewed the NTRAP as a critical element in a comprehensive plan to achieve a goal of zero preventable trauma deaths – defined as a life that could have been saved by appropriate and timely medical care -- in both our military and civilian sectors. Studies have estimated that 25% of battlefield deaths and 20% of civilian deaths after injury are survivable.

Whether sustained in military service or civilian life, traumatic injury is a major public health problem. Since 2001, trauma has caused nearly 7,000 combat-related deaths. Additionally, nearly 200,000 U.S. civilians suffer a fatal injury each year; and for every death due to injury, another 3 to 4 people survive with life-limiting disabilities or pain. Injury is the leading cause of death in individuals up to the age of 46, including children.

Study authors conceived the NTRAP as a means to “strengthen trauma research and ensure that the resources available for this research are commensurate with the importance of injury and the potential for improvement in patient outcomes.” Yet one study of NIH funding showed that trauma ranks last in funding compared to its burden among 27 disease categories. The NASEM report concluded that a unified effort across federal agencies is required and that the NTRAP is the mechanism to unify and focus research agendas on the most critical problems.

The principal elements of the NTRAP effort would be: performing a gap analysis of military and civilian trauma research to identify priorities across the continuum of care; defining optimal metrics to assess long-term outcomes in injured patients; cataloging current federal funding for trauma research, as currently there is no such resource; and identifying regulatory barriers to conducting trauma research, recommending best practices as well as appropriate funding levels to address critical gaps. Experts across the continuum of care would be recruited to lead in such areas as pre-hospital trauma care, mass casualty response, acute resuscitation, critical care, neurotrauma, orthopedic trauma, burns, geriatric trauma, pediatric trauma, injury prevention and rehabilitation. A steering committee with leaders from each of these areas would direct the project.

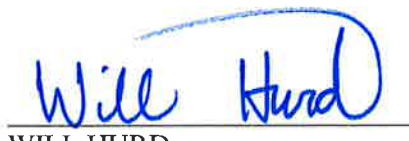
Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky, our military has long had the lead among federal agencies in trauma. It is time for Congress to put these sound recommendations into practice, and we believe this request will fully fund such a NASEM-recommended plan for future trauma research, leading to the stated goal of zero preventable trauma deaths.

The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
March 16, 2018  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
JOAQUIN CASTRO  
Member of Congress

  
WILL HURD  
Member of Congress

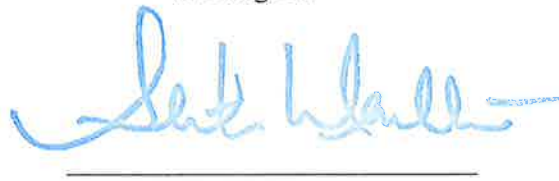
  
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER  
Member of Congress

  
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III.  
Member of Congress

  
LAMAR SMITH  
Member of Congress

  
YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress

  
RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress

  
SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress

  
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
FILEMON VELA  
Member of Congress



DINA TITUS  
Member of Congress



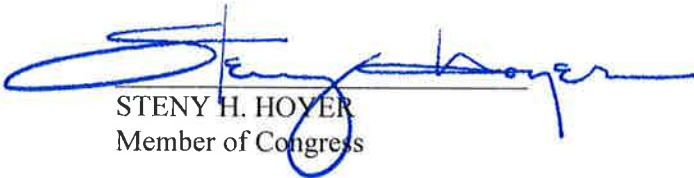
BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress



TIM WALZ  
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO  
Member of Congress



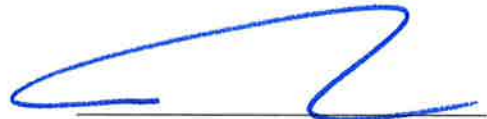
STENY H. HOYER  
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
Member of Congress



ANTHONY G BROWN  
Member of Congress




JOHN K. DELANEY  
Member of Congress



COLLIN PETERSON  
Member of Congress



ROSA DELAURO  
Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress



JOHN YARMUTH  
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER  
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress



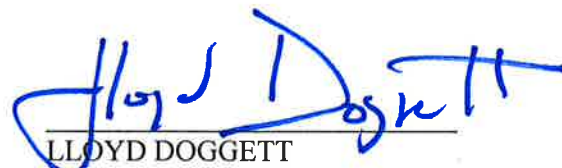
JOHN SARBANES  
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY  
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT  
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress



ANDRÉ CARSON  
Member of Congress




STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS  
Member of Congress





WALTER B. JONES  
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH  
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS  
Member of Congress




RICHARD M. NOLAN  
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY  
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress



HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.  
Member of Congress



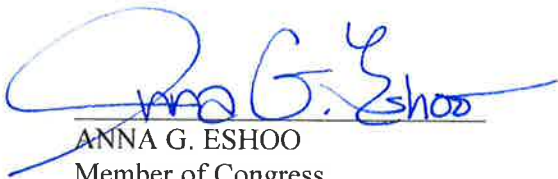
DORIS MATSUI  
Member of Congress




SEAN PATRICK MALONEY  
Member of Congress



DANIEL LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress



ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS, M.D.  
Member of Congress



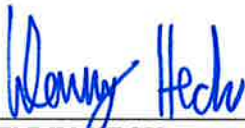
JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER, II  
Member of Congress



TED LIEU  
Member of Congress



DENNY HECK  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



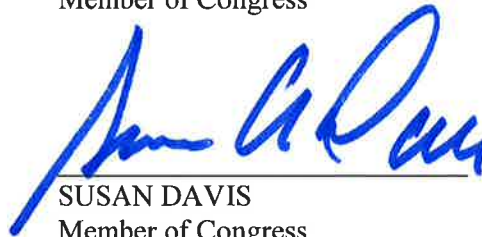
DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress



BETO O'ROURKE  
Member of Congress



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY  
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress



RODNEY DAVIS  
Member of Congress



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress