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February 11, 2015

The Honorable Michael Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Burgess and Green:

On behalf of the over 79,000 Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, I would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 647, the Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act, and express our strong support for the passage of this legislation. This bill ensures that all who need life-saving care will have access to trauma centers dedicated to the provision of such care. We sincerely appreciate your continued leadership in recognizing the importance of these programs to help save lives.

As you know, this bill would reauthorize programs that provide grants for trauma care centers across the nation. The Trauma Care Center Grants help support trauma centers by allowing them operating funds to maintain their core missions, to compensate them for losses from uncompensated care, and to provide emergency awards to centers at risk of closure. The Trauma Service Availability Grants are channeled through the States and used for a number of activities to address shortfalls in trauma services and improve access to and the availability of the essential lifesaving services it is imperative they be able to continue to provide.

This important legislation would ensure trauma centers remain viable and are not forced to close their doors despite increased health care costs and uncompensated care. Overall, the legislation will work toward our collective goal of ensuring the future of availability of trauma care.

We urge swift passage of this important legislation. Your acknowledgement of the need to ensure these centers are available to all Americans is greatly appreciated and we thank you again for your leadership and commitment to these crucial programs.

Sincerely,

David B. Hoyt, MD, FACS
Executive Director, ACS

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