

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Mike Burgess, M.D.
2336 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
2470 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Burgess and Green:

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), our 33,000 members and the more than 136 million patients we treat every year, I am writing to express ACEP's support for H.R. 648, the "Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act" and to thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Emergency and trauma care are critically important to the health and well-being of Americans. In 2011, more than 136 million visits were made to hospital emergency departments. About one-quarter of those visits were due to unintentional injury or poisoning. While most Americans encounter the emergency department or trauma center only rarely, they count on them to be there when those services are needed.

This legislation would reauthorize two important grant programs that would provide essential resources for patients in need of emergency medical care. First, the Trauma Systems Grants would support state efforts to plan, establish, and develop trauma care systems. Second, the Regionalization of Emergency Care Grants would create several pilot projects to design, implement and evaluate innovative models of regionalized emergency care and trauma systems.

Reauthorizing the Trauma Care Systems Planning Grants and Regionalization of Emergency Care Systems Grants will help ensure vital trauma and emergency care services continue to be available for patients when and where they are needed. The grants will also help expand access, improve quality and reduce costs within these systems.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Gerardi, MD, FAAP, FACEP
President, ACEP

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2121 K Street NW, Suite 325
Washington, DC 20037-1886

202-728-0610
800-320-0610
202-728-0617 (FAX)
www.acep.org

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