



TRAUMA CENTER

Association of America

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February 3, 2015

The Honorable Michael Burgess, M.D.
The United States House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
The United States House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Burgess and Representative Green:

On behalf of America's trauma centers and systems, the Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA) writes to express our strong support for the "The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act (HR 648)" and "The Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act" (HR 647).

TCAA is a non-profit, 501(c)(6) association representing trauma centers and systems across the country. TCAA is committed to ensuring access to life-saving trauma services, and it is out of that commitment we support these vital bills and urge their enactment.

"The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act" would among other provisions, reauthorize the Trauma and Emergency Care Systems Grants through 2020. These programs are essential to ensure the coordination of trauma care delivery among trauma centers, ambulances, helicopters, state and local governments as well as implement and evaluate innovative models of regionalized emergency care systems.

"The Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act" would among other provisions reauthorize the Trauma Care Center Grants and The Trauma Service Availability Grants. These programs would provide grants to prevent further trauma center closures and address shortfalls in trauma services and improve access to and the availability of trauma care in underserved areas.

These programs are critical to the efficient delivery of services through trauma centers and the highly specialized trauma teams that staff them, as well as to the development of regionalized systems of trauma and emergency care that ensure timely access for injured patients to appropriate facilities. Victims of traumatic injury treated at a Level I trauma center are 25% more likely to survive than those treated at a general hospital. Unfortunately, 45 million Americans lack access to major trauma centers within the "golden hour" post injury when chances of survival are greatest.

Reauthorization of these programs will help to prevent trauma center closures and will drive the development of more efficient regionalized systems of emergency care and transport and our ability to most effectively save lives. A modest investment by Congress can yield immense returns in efficiencies, economies of scale and improvement in public health and safety.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and commitment to preserve access to trauma care and look forward to working with you on the reauthorization of these vital programs. Should you or your staff have any questions concerning these matters, please contact me at 575-525-9511 or jennifer@traumacenters.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Ward, MBA, RN
President
Trauma Center Association of America