



July 11, 2016

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health
FROM: Committee Majority Staff
RE: Legislative Hearing entitled “Strengthening our National Trauma System”

I. INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building the subcommittee on health will hold a hearing entitled “Strengthening our National Trauma System.”

II. WITNESSES

The Subcommittee will hear from the following witnesses:

- Jorie Klein, BSN, RN, Director, Trauma Program, Rees-Jones Trauma Center at Parkland;
- David Marcozzi, MD, University of Maryland Department of Emergency Medicine;
- C. William Schwab, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center;
- Craig Manifold, DO, FACEP, Committee Chair, American College of Emergency Physicians; and,
- J. Brent Myers, MD, MPH, FACEP, President-Elect, National Association of EMS Physicians.

III. BACKGROUND

On 17 June, 2016, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) released a report entitled “A National Trauma Care System: Integrating Military and Civilian Trauma Systems to Achieve Zero Preventable Deaths After Injury.”

Traumatic injury imposes an incredible burden on the US health care system. It is the third leading cause of death overall and the number one cause of death for those under the age of 46. Since it disproportionality affects young people, it is the leading cause of productive life

years lost, more so than cancer or heart disease. In 2013 alone, trauma accounted for \$670 billion in medical expenses, lost wages, and productivity.

The military has made significant strides over the past decade in improving trauma care based on wartime lessons learned. Unfortunately, these lessons are often not fully translated to civilian trauma care or are not sustained during peacetime. It is estimated that nearly 30,000 Americans die from trauma every year that could have been saved had optimal care been provided.

The NASEM envisions a national trauma care system that allows for the continuous and seamless exchange of knowledge across the military and civilian health care sectors to ensure the optimal delivery of trauma care to save the lives of American injured within the United States or on the battlefield.

During this hearing, the Subcommittee will discuss the findings of the report and legislation focused on strengthening our national trauma and emergency care systems.

The Subcommittee will discuss the following legislation:

- A. **H.R. _____, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a tiered grant program to civilian trauma centers that have engaged in military-civilian partnerships, and to require the Secretary of HHS to study how trauma care is reimbursed**

This legislation would authorize grants to civilian trauma centers that integrate military trauma team members into their staffs in order to maintain battlefield currency and to help translate military trauma care lessons to the civilian trauma system. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study military-civilian trauma integration, its effect on military readiness, the civilian community, and the financial impacts of trauma care.

- B. **H.R 4365, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016**

Authored by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC), this bipartisan bill would allow physician medical directors to continue overseeing care provided by paramedics and other emergency medical service (EMS) practitioners through “standing orders.” Standing orders allow physician medical directors to establish pre-set protocols for EMS practitioners to follow in delivering emergency medical care, and are especially important in the administration and delivery of controlled substances. This legislation would also ensure EMS agencies are responsible for the accountability of controlled substances used to treat emergency conditions in the out of hospital setting.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Bob Mabry, Sophie Trainor, or John Stone of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.