

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Senate Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito,

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to maintain a strong commitment to trauma system readiness by funding the *Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act* grant programs at the fully authorized amount of \$24 million for FY 2024. The programs, which were authorized by Sec. 2113 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, are critical for improving trauma care in rural areas and ensuring a coordinated response to emergencies across the country.

Trauma system readiness is essential for ensuring that individuals who experience traumatic injury receive prompt and appropriate care. A well-coordinated and efficient trauma system can significantly improve patient outcomes, reduce mortality rates, and prevent long-term disabilities. In the event of a mass casualty incident or a natural disaster, a ready and well-functioning trauma system is crucial in providing rapid and effective care to those in need. Additionally, trauma system readiness ensures that resources are effectively utilized and that patients are appropriately triaged and transferred to the most appropriate facility for care. Supporting trauma system readiness is especially dire as more major hospitals across the country close, straining the trauma care system and leaving Americans with limited access to trauma care.

Fully funding the bipartisan *Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act* would allow the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to award grants for trauma centers to strengthen coordination and communication, develop approaches to improve emergency medical and trauma system access, establish evidence-based practices, and conduct activities to support clinical research. Funding would also improve trauma care in rural areas through grants for research and demonstration projects that focus on developing innovative technology, training and education, transportation, prehospital care, and other priorities, greatly benefitting underserved rural communities which often lack access to high-quality trauma care.

Additionally, this funding would enable ASPR to work with states to develop guidance and resources that support emergency medical services and trauma care coordination during public

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

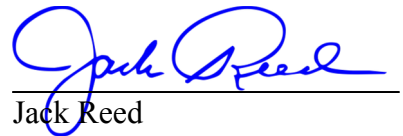
health emergencies. This would improve the overall response to public health crises and ensure that those in need receive the care they require.

As such, we urge you to fully fund the *Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act* grant programs at \$24 million in FY 2024 to ensure that trauma patients receive the highest quality of care in the event of an emergency and for promoting overall public health and safety.

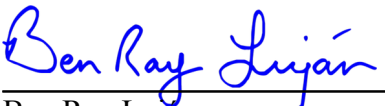
Sincerely,



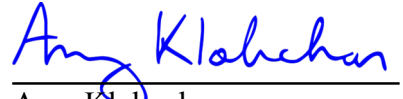
Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator