

THE COALITION FOR AMERICAN TRAUMA CARE

May 20, 2008

The Honorable John Murtha
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for a National Research Agenda at the National Trauma Institute

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for American Trauma Care, as well as other interested trauma organizations, urge you to provide \$20 million in FY 2009 for a national trauma research program at the National Trauma Institute (NTI).

War is a major force for increasing knowledge of injury and its management. Practices of care initiated in Korea and Vietnam are the foundation for modern emergency medical and trauma care systems. The war in Iraq and Afghanistan has produced more than 34,400 injured and 4,000 deaths from injury and massive amounts of new information that needs to be tested and integrated to improve care of the injured in both military and civilian settings. In the United States each year, injury claims the lives of 167,000 people and causes nearly one million individuals to be partially or completely disabled at an annual cost exceeding \$4 billion. Globally, nearly 10 million individuals die each year from injury, and the number increases every year.

The NTI (www.nationaltraumainstitute.org) is an independent, 501(c)(3) entity governed by a Board of Directors comprised of nationally recognized trauma care practitioners and researchers. The NTI, is positioned to fund competitive, inter-disciplinary and multi-institutional research at the nation's leading academic medical centers and business enterprises that will ensure change in clinical practice benefiting both seriously injured soldiers and civilians.

The undersigned organizations greatly appreciate your outstanding leadership on behalf of those serving in our armed forces. We hope you will help build a military-civilian medical research infrastructure within the NTI that will efficiently and effectively harness knowledge that will improve protection and outcomes for soldiers and civilians alike.

Sincerely,

American Association for Neurological Surgeons
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons
AO North America
Association of Air Medical Services &
Brain Injury Association of America
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation, Inc.

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
Foundation for Air-Medical Research & Education
National Trauma Institute
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Shock Society
Society of Trauma Nurses

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