

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, &  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, &  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

We are writing to request a significant investment for the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act (P.L. 110-23), which passed Congress unanimously, in the fiscal year 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

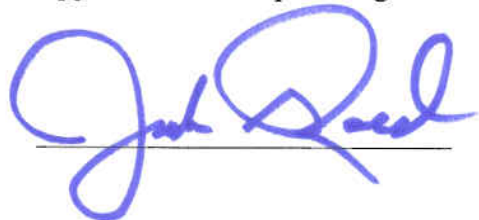
In 2006, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) determined that trauma injuries are the second most expensive health care condition, costing our country approximately \$68 billion, and the leading cause of death for Americans aged 1 through 44. Ensuring that injured individuals are transported to specialized trauma center hospitals within the “golden hour” – the time period when medical intervention is most effective – is essential to save lives and functional abilities.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has recommended that coordinated and regionalized trauma care systems at federal, state, and local levels—modeled on existing trauma care systems – are critical to these response efforts. Furthermore, the IOM report details the importance of integrating emergency medical services (EMS) into the proven system for trauma care. Unfortunately, half the states in the country are without a statewide trauma care system, let alone a coordinated Trauma-EMS system.

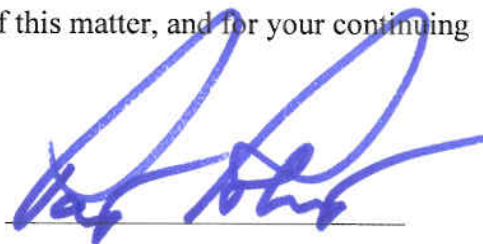
Providing a significant amount of funding for these systems will leverage states’ ability to respond to deadly natural disasters, terrorist threats, chemical spills, and other emergencies. We also continue to urge you to provide the resources necessary to expand and enhance these efforts to help with the development of a coordinated Trauma-EMS system so that both injured and ill patients receive the treatment they need in trauma center hospitals.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, and for your continuing support of these important goals.

Sincerely,



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Chuck Sch

Von Uden

Frank R. Lautenberg

Whitman

Sayby Claiborn

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Barbara Mikulski

Chris Dodd

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