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September 25, 2006

**We are responsible for ensuring Americans have access to Emergency Medical Care
Cosponsor the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act of 2006**

Dear Colleague,

The state of EMS and trauma systems in our country is an issue that demands our attention, particularly for rural parts of the country.

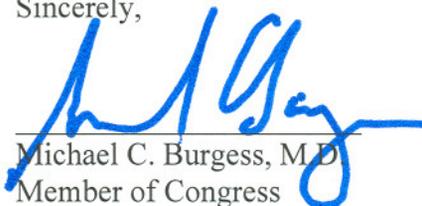
Recently, the Institute of Medicine has reported that:

1. Emergency departments and trauma centers are overcrowded
2. Emergency care is highly fragmented
3. Critical specialists are often unavailable to provide emergency and trauma care
4. The emergency care system is ill-prepared to handle a major disaster.

The Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act of 2006, H.R. 5555, answers these deficiencies. It provides needed planning grants to state trauma systems to improve the coordination of emergency departments and bolster the safety net from point of injury through treatment. It requires state programs to cooperate regionally and provide for disaster planning. It develops residency training programs in Emergency Medicine. It investigates the state of trauma care and research. It creates an Interagency Program to conduct 'basic and clinical research on trauma, including the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of trauma-related injuries.' Most importantly, it specifically focuses on the relevance of these activities and research in the rural areas where EMS/trauma services are needed most.

Become a cosponsor of H.R. 5555 today. For more information, contact Kimberly Stump with Dr. Burgess' office at 5-7772 or kimberly.stump@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

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