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March 22, 2017

The Honorable Michael Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Burgess:

On behalf of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) and our more than 42,000 members, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 880, the *Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act of 2017 (MISSION ZERO Act)*. This important and timely legislation will help improve the quality of trauma care provided in the United States.

As you know, traumatic injury is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 44. In a recently published report, the National Academies of Engineering, Science and Mathematics (NASEM) estimated that in 2014, as many as 30,000 American deaths could have been prevented if trauma care had been optimal. Consistent with recommendations made by NASEM, the MISSION ZERO Act will better integrate military and civilian trauma care in order to improve care for all Americans, including those in the Armed Services.

More than a decade of wartime experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has provided military health care providers an opportunity to improve and enhance the practice of battlefield emergency care. MISSION ZERO will allow these military providers, including highly-skilled emergency nurses, to transfer those lessons and skills to their civilian counterparts, ensuring that victims of traumatic injury receive state-of-the-art emergency care. In addition, by practicing in civilian trauma centers while not deployed, these military providers will be able to keep their skills sharp while providing lifesaving care to patients across the country, helping to fill in existing gaps in the nation's trauma system.

Thank you for introducing H.R. 880 and your leadership on this critical issue that impacts the health care outcomes of countless Americans who suffer traumatic injuries, on and off the battlefield. If you have any questions, please contact ENA's Chief Government Relations Officer, Richard Mereu, at 202-741-9373.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen K. Wiley'.

Karen K. Wiley, MSN, RN, CEN
2017 ENA President