



Dear Representatives Hastings and Wenstrup,

The Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) commends you for introducing the *Prevent Blood Loss with Emergency Equipment Devices (BLEEDing) Act of 2019*. The STN, the premier organization representing trauma nurses across the continuum of care and across the globe, has partnered with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) and the United States Department of Homeland Security to advocate for this important policy, since its inception. The Society of Trauma Nurses enthusiastically endorses the *Prevent BLEEDing Act* and looks forward to working with members of Congress and the healthcare community to enact its provisions.

Adding the use of bleeding control equipment, such as tourniquets, to the techniques taught along with CPR and basic first aid will better equip civilians to help save lives. With the increased public attention on mass casualty events, now is the time to integrate this training into existing curriculum. This is a valuable opportunity to better educate the public on the latest techniques.

According to a study published in the American College of Surgeons (ACS) only 36% of those surveyed felt comfortable applying a tourniquet fearing damage to a patients limb.¹ However, current experience from the wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq show that the benefits far outweigh the risks.² Providing bleeding control training to the general public is the best way to achieve the goal of reducing or eliminating preventable death by bleeding. Furthermore, the grants proposed under the *Prevent BLEEDing Act*, will help ensure that recipients procure products approved by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and the Department of Defense Combat Casualty Research Program in order to prevent the use of substandard or poorly made equipment, which might not adequately stop severe bleeding.

Thank you for championing the provision of the training and tools necessary for civilians to take action to help control traumatic bleeding, in the 116th Congress, through the *Prevent BLEEDing Act*. Please contact Adam Haley at ahaley@traumanurses.org if STN can assist your efforts to advance this legislation in any way.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Mattocks, MSN, RN".

Sarah Mattocks, MSN, FNP-C, TCRN, NE-BC

President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cristy Meyer".

Cristy Meyer, RN, MSN, CEN

Chair, Government Affairs & Public Policy Committee

¹ The Hartford Consensus: A National Survey of the Public Regarding Bleeding Control Jacobs, Lenworth M. et al., *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, Volume 222, Issue 5, 948 - 955

² Kragh, J.F., Walters, T.J., Baer, D.G. et al. Practical use of emergency tourniquets to stop bleeding in major limb Trauma. *J Trauma*. 2008; Trauma. *J Trauma*. 2008;