

The National Trauma Center Stabilization Act

Bill Summary:

The **National Trauma Center Stabilization Act** provides federal grants for trauma care centers across the nation that are struggling and often closing their doors because of the increased costs of providing health care and uncompensated charity care. This bill ensures that trauma centers continue to be there for all who need life-saving care.

Grants authorized by this bill:

Title I - \$100 million per year total for:

- **Uncompensated Care Grants** - to assist trauma centers with the highest levels of charity care by helping to defray some of their uncompensated costs and prevent further closures or downgrades of trauma levels.
- **Core Mission Grants** - to support day-to-day operation of trauma centers including patient stabilization and transfer, education and outreach and coordination with other trauma centers and the state trauma system.
- **Emergency Grants** - to provide emergency relief to trauma centers at risk of closing, located in a region where another trauma center has closed or downgraded levels, or in an area affected by a natural or terrorist disaster.

Title II - \$100 million per year for:

- **Trauma Service Availability Grant Program** - to address trauma center physician shortages, 24/7 service availability, overcrowding and increase access in underserved areas across the country.

Why this bill is needed:

- Trauma can happen at any time and to any one – trauma centers must be available to all victims of traumatic injury.
- Getting a trauma victim to a trauma center right away is the first step in saving his or her life.
 - It is widely believed that a victim's chances of survival are greatest when given care during the first 60 minutes – what has been coined as the **Golden Hour**.
- Trauma centers provide care to all patients – regardless of their ability to pay.
 - Trauma centers absorb the cost of care if a trauma patient cannot afford treatment.
- The supply of trauma surgeons in the United States is rapidly declining.
- Trauma centers are downgrading or closing their doors because of limited access to on-call specialists.
- The National Foundation for Trauma Care estimates that trauma centers collectively face \$230 million per year in losses for treating victims who do not have the ability to pay for their care.
- Since 2000, at least 20 trauma centers have closed and at least 13 have downgraded one or two levels.