

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 20, 2014

Dear Senators Baldwin and Portman:

The undersigned organizations write to thank you for your leadership on this historic and timely introduction of the Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act of 2014 in the United States Senate.

Each year, five million Americans are admitted into medical, surgical, pediatric or neo-natal intensive care units (ICUs), with the majority of these ICUs operating at or near capacity to take care of these patients every day. The care provided in the ICU is highly specialized and complex due to the extreme severity of illness of the patients, often involving multiple disease processes in different organ systems at the same time. Moreover, providers of critical care require specialized training because the care delivered in the ICU is technology-intensive and the outcomes have life or death consequences.

Nearly 80 percent of all Americans will experience a critical care injury or illness in their lifetime, either as a patient, family member, or friend of a patient, and care in our nation's ICUs represents 17 percent of all hospital costs, or approximately \$121 billion annually. Yet, despite the significant role critical care medicine plays in the American health care system, the importance of the infrastructure supporting our nation's ICUs, NICUs and PICUs is often not recognized as unique within the continuum of health care delivery. The recent response to the Ebola crisis by our nation's ICUs underscored the necessity of a streamlined policy to address the real challenges faced by critical care providers in efforts to facilitate efficiencies, address rising health care costs, improve outcomes, and promote innovation and preparedness in this vital delivery area, especially in the areas of infrastructure and workforce, research, and quality of care.

Your bipartisan bill, the Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act of 2014, thus plays an important role in filling that gap by requiring a comprehensive evaluation of the critical care system and driving policies that will maximize current federal resources to improve health outcomes for patients in our nation's ICUs.

We applaud you for taking the lead in advancing these important tenets in the Senate, and in working to promote critical care policies that improve the delivery of care for millions of patients across the country.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
Case Management Society of America (CMSA)

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Children's National Health System
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
Gundersen Health System
Healthcare Leadership Council
Ikaria, Inc.
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health
The Leapfrog Group
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center
The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy
Trauma Center Association of America
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Center for Health Security
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health