

September 17, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

The undersigned organizations are writing to thank you for your support of medical simulation and the introduction of S. 616, the “Enhancing SIMULATION (Safety In Medicine Utilizing Leading Advanced Simulation Technologies to Improve Outcomes Now) Act of 2009.” We would like to take this opportunity to urge you to consider moving this legislation forward in the process by holding a hearing in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on medical simulation before the close of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Defense has long used medical simulation training for military medical professionals. Despite the great benefits simulation presents to the general public and the U.S. health care system, the uptake of this technology in the civilian health care community has taken time, mainly due to the associated costs of rapidly evolving simulation technologies.

In the era of health care reform, now is the time to support and encourage the use of medical simulation technologies. An estimated 44,000 to 98,000 Americans die each year because of medical errors, costing the nation between \$17 and \$29 billion annually. Medical simulation education and training provides health care professionals with the opportunity to practice complicated procedures and scenarios without posing a risk to a patient’s health, thus reducing medical errors, saving lives, and cutting health care costs.

The “Enhancing SIMULATION Act” would authorize the appropriation of funds for the further expansion of medical simulation technology to the general public. The legislation authorizes \$50 million additional funds for future years.

If passed, this would be the first bill to support the widespread expansion of medical simulation technologies in the public sector. Thank you again for your support of this important issue and giving medical simulation the federal investment it deserves.

Sincerely,

Advanced Initiatives in Medical Simulation (AIMS)  
Washington, DC

Adventist Healthcare, Inc.  
Rockville, MD

Alliance for High Performance Digital Manufacturing

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)  
Irving, TX

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

American College of Nurse Practitioners

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology

American Laryngological Association

American Medical Student Association

American Rhinologic Society

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists

American Society of Transplantation

Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation

Arizona Simulation Technology & Education Center (ASTECC) at the University of Arizona College of  
Medicine  
Tucson, AZ

Association of Standardized Patient Educators

Banner Simulation Medical Center, Banner Health  
Phoenix, AZ

Baystate Medical Center  
Springfield, MA

B-Line Medical, LLC  
Washington, DC

Broward General Medical Center  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Butte Local Development Corporation  
Butte, Montana

Center for Advanced Clinical Learning, USF Health  
Tampa, Florida

Center for Advanced Pediatric and Perinatal Education at Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford  
(CAPE)  
Palo Alto, CA

Center for Simulation Education and Safety Research, University of Florida College of Medicine at  
Shands Medical Center  
Jacksonville, FL

Center for Telehealth and Cybermedicine Research, University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM

Chris Everett Children's Hospital  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Christiana Care Health System  
Newark, DE

Clinical Simulation Laboratory of Cooper University Hospital  
Camden, NJ

Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance  
Wilmington, NC

Columbia Dentoform Corporation/DentalEz  
Long Island City, NY

Consortium for Immersive and Simulation-based Learning, Stanford University School of Medicine  
Palo Alto, CA

Cooper University Hospital  
Camden, NJ

Coral Springs Medical Center  
Coral Springs, FL

Dinesh G. Patel, MD, Arthroscopy Learning Laboratory, MGH  
Boston, MA

Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Norfolk, VA

Education Management Solutions  
Exton, PA

Gannon University  
Erie, PA

Goodman Simulation Center, Stanford University School of Medicine, Department of Surgery, Palo Alto, CA

Howard and Joyce Wood Simulation Center, Washington University School of Medicine  
St Louis, MO

Image Perspectives  
Carson City, NV

Iowa Health System  
Des Moines, IA

Imperial Point Medical Center  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Innovation in Learning Inc.  
Los Altos Hills, CA

Institute for Medical Simulation, Mott Community College  
Flint, MI

Keystone Simulation and Education Center  
Monaca, PA

Limbs & Things USA  
Savannah, GA

Louisiana Hospital Association  
Baton Rouge, LA

Maryland Advanced Simulation, Training, Research, and Innovation (MASTRI) Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine and University of Maryland Medical Center  
Baltimore, Maryland

Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Learning Laboratory  
Boston, MA

Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN

Medical Dynamics, LLC.  
Cleveland, OH

Medical Education & Research Institute  
Memphis, Tennessee

Medical Security International  
Cleveland, OH

Montana Health Network  
Miles City, MT

Montefiore Medical Center  
Bronx, NY

National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Neonatal Nurses

National Center for Health Care Informatics  
Butte, MT

National Center for Simulation (NCS)  
Orlando, FL

National Training and Simulation Association

North Broward Medical Center  
Deerfield Beach, FL

Ohio State University Medical Center  
Columbus, OH

Palm Beach State College Simulation Center  
Lake Worth, FL

Palmetto Health  
Columbia, SC

Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research (WISER)  
University of Pittsburgh and UPMC  
Pittsburgh, PA

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
Pocket Nurse  
Pittsburgh, PA

Providence Hospital Surgical & Procedural Skills Training Center, Providence Hospital & Medical  
Centers  
Southfield, MI

Robert Morris University Regional RISE Center  
Moon Township, PA

SiTEL of MedStar Health  
Washington, DC

Society for Simulation in Healthcare

Society of Interventional Radiology

Surgical Skills Lab, NYU School of Medicine  
New York, NY

Texas Children's Hospital Simulation Center  
Houston, TX

The Center for Medical Simulation  
Cambridge, MA

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA

The Johns Hopkins Medicine Simulation Center  
Baltimore, MD

The Knight Simulation Program, The Institute for Patient Care, Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA

The Neil and Elise Wallace STRATUS Center for Medical Simulation at Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

The Simulators LLC

The Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Union Memorial Hospital  
Baltimore, MD

University of Central Florida College of Medicine  
Orlando, FL

University of Central Florida Institute for Simulation and Training  
Orlando, FL

University of Dubuque  
Dubuque, IA

University of Illinois College of Medicine  
Rockford, IL

University of Maryland School of Nursing  
Baltimore, MD

University of Miami Department of Anesthesia  
Miami, FL

University of Miami Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education  
Miami, FL

University of Michigan Clinical Simulation Center  
Ann Arbor, MI

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Kansas City, MO

University of South Carolina College of Nursing, Clinical Simulation Laboratory  
Columbia, SC

University of South Florida  
Tampa, FL

University of Toledo  
Toledo, OH

UW Health Clinical Simulation Program  
Madison, WI

UW Hospital and Clinics  
Madison, WI

Venango Technology Center Practical Nursing Program  
Oil City, PA

West Virginia University, Simulation Training & Education for Patient Safety (WV STEPS)  
Morgantown, WV

Women & Infants' Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital Medical Simulation Center  
Providence, RI