



National Medical Association

8403 Colesville Road, Suite 920
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-6331
(202) 347-1895 Fax: (202) 347-0722
www.NMAnet.org

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Henry "Hank" Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Johnson and Senator Wyden:

The National Medical Association (NMA) is the nation's oldest and largest association of African American physicians, representing over 30,000 physicians and the millions of patients that they serve.

On behalf of the NMA, I am writing to express our organization's support for the bipartisan Battlefield Excellence Through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act (H.R. 1095 / S. 587). This bill sets a conservative and responsible timeline for the completion of the Department of Defense's existing effort to reduce and replace the use of animals in military medical training with superior human simulation-based training methods. Military and civilian studies agree that human patient simulators can now prepare personnel to properly manage traumatic injuries as well as or better than practicing on animals.

The BEST Practices Act is a prudent and sensible measure that will improve military medical training and help save lives. We thank you for introducing this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Martin Hamlette, JD, MHA
Executive Director
National Medical Association