

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
Help Drive Improvements in Quality and Value in the
Critical Care Delivery System
Cosponsor the Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act

Dear Colleague,

Each year, five million Americans are admitted into traditional, surgical, pediatric or neo-natal intensive care units (ICUs), and at some time in their life, nearly 80 percent of all Americans will experience a critical care injury or illness as a patient, family member, or friend of a patient. Critical care medicine is the care of patients whose illnesses or injuries present a significant danger to life, limb or organ function, and care in our nation's ICUs represents 17 percent of all hospital costs or approximately \$121 billion annually.

Despite the significant role critical care medicine plays and its impact on healthcare costs, there is an absence of federal policy addressing critical care issues, especially in the areas of infrastructure and workforce, research and quality of care.

Our bill, the **Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act of 2013** seeks to fill that gap by requiring a comprehensive evaluation of the critical care system, and would put in place policies to maximize current federal resources to drive improvements in health outcomes.

Specifically the legislation would:

- Authorize an Institute of Medicine study to assess the state of the critical care delivery system, including its current capacity, capabilities and economic impact;
- Require the Health Resources and Services Administration to update a 2006 study on the critical care workforce;
- Establish a Critical Care Coordinating Council within the National Institutes of Health to coordinate the collection and analysis of information on critical care research, identify gaps in such research, and strengthen partnerships with public and private entities to expand collaborative, cross-cutting research; and
- Authorize a demonstration program within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to improve the quality and efficiency of care provided to critically ill patients.

If you would like to become a cosponsor of this legislation, please contact Noah Jacobson in Representative Erik Paulsen's office at noah.jacobson@mail.house.gov or 5-2871, or Joel Bailey in Representative Jim Matheson's office at joel.bailey@mail.house.gov or 5-3011.

Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Jim Matheson
Member of Congress