

DATE

The Honorable Senator **First and Last Name**
United States Senate
Room Number Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear **Senator Last Name**:

I am writing to thank **you/your health legislative assistant, staffer name**, for taking time out of **your/his/her** busy schedule to meet with me on **day, date month**. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to discuss medical simulation and S. 616, the Enhancing SIMULATION Act of 2009. Introduced in March by your colleague Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), the bill advances the use of modeling and simulation technologies in medicine.

As we discussed, medical simulation is a method of clinical skills training for physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, combat medics, and emergency personnel, combining the use of mannequins and virtual reality with feedback from specially trained faculty, standardized patients, peers, and video tape. Simulation-based training, research has demonstrated, results in better-trained health care providers, reduces medical errors, decreases health costs and incidents of malpractice, improves clinical competencies, and improves the quality of patient care overall.

To date, successful medical simulation research has been conducted within the Department of Defense at the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, as well as within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Enhancing SIMULATION Act extends the benefits of advanced medical simulation technology to the civilian health care system, creating nationwide centers for training, education and research. Overall, if passed, the Enhancing SIMULATION Act would significantly improve the quality of medical care delivered. I urge your support of this important legislation.

Again, I want to thank **you/name of staffer** for **your/his/her** time and consideration. Should **you or name of staffer** have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at **phone or email**. I look forward to further collaboration with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

First Name Last Name, Degrees
Home Street Address
City, State Zip
Phone Number/Email Address