

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 19, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in sponsoring amendment 4309 to S. 2766, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2007. This amendment would authorize \$20 million to supply each soldier serving in Afghanistan or Iraq with at least one hemostatic agent and for medical staff to be adequately supplied as well.

According to the American Red Cross, half of all military deaths on the battlefield are a result of excessive blood loss. All branches of the Armed Services use hemostatic agents, which come in either bandage form or granular form, to rapidly stop severe bleeding. As a result, these agents have been proven to save the lives of soldiers.

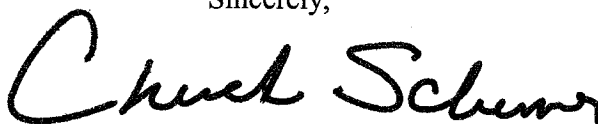
In February 2003, the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, which is comprised of over 30 military and civilian doctors, recommended that all combatants carry hemostatic dressings. In September 2005, Army Surgeon General Kevin Kiley stated that hemostatic agents should be supplied to all Army combat troops. Despite these recommendations, not all soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan carry these life saving devices with them.

It is clear that the men and women who are risking their lives should have access to any and all life saving items, such as these hemostatic agents. However, soldiers report that they have not received these vital items for their personal gear apparently because medical units stockpile the bandages and granular packets. In fact, one New York foundation is raising money to buy hemostatic agents to send directly to soldiers.

This amendment includes a Sense of Congress that every member of the Armed Services should carry a hemostatic agent, authorizes \$20 million so a sufficient quantity of hemostatic agents can be purchased for every soldier serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, and asks the Department of Defense to submit a report back to Congress on how these agents are distributed, and where distribution problems may occur.

I hope you will join me in this amendment to ensure that those who are risking their lives in service to our country deserve access to this inexpensive, easy to carry and use life saving device. If you have any questions, or would like to co-sponsor this important amendment, please contact Bret Rumbeck of my staff at 4-8355.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator