

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS for ABA NLC ADVOCACY MEETINGS

February 1-3, 2022

Thank you for taking our meeting! I am a _____ [JOB] and I work at _____ [CENTER] in _____ [TOWN].

We are members of the American Burn Association. ABA is an international organization of more than 2,000 professionals that promotes and supports burn-related research, care, education, and prevention.

We have 4 things on our agenda today:

- 1) Educate you about burn injuries
- 2) Tell you about National Burn Awareness Week
- 3) Ask for your support of the Military Burn Research Program
- 4) Tell you about a new advocacy area for us – home oxygen burn prevention

Burn Injuries

- Nearly 500,000 people are treated for burns each year
- Almost 3,700 recorded deaths were from fire/smoke inhalation in 2016
- The primary causes of injury include fire/flame, scalds, electrical, and chemical burns
- Children are 2.4x more likely than the general population to experience burn injuries

National Burn Awareness Week

Next week is National Burn Awareness Week. Our theme this year is preventing burn injuries from cooking at home.

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires.

And we are educating the public about how to prevent cooking injuries because preventing a burn injury is always better than the pain and trauma of medical treatment afterward.

Support the Military Burn Research Program

The Military Burn Research Program at the Department of Defense is a vital source of research that has improved the standard of care for Service members and the public who sustain burn injuries for the last 11 years.

DOD funding has provided a total of \$113 million. ABA was directly awarded \$34 million to support 13 burn research studies at 43 burn centers.

Current studies are looking at:

- Using albumin to treat burn injuries to better stabilize fluids in patients post-surgery and improve mortality rates.
- Best practices for early physical therapy and rehabilitation after severe burn injuries, allowing patients to achieve better long-term mobility and quality of life post-surgery.

For Fiscal Year 2022, the House included \$10 million in funding for the Military Burn Research Program. We hope that Congress will finalize this funding.

We will be asking for additional research funding for Fiscal Year 2023 so we can investigate issues of concern to the military such as frostbite, prolonged field care, burn shock, and infection.

We will follow up with you when the appropriations process starts for Fiscal Year 2023 and ask you to weigh in the leaders of the Appropriations Committee on your support for the Military Burn Research Program.

Home Oxygen Therapy

We are working to support public policy that prevents injuries from home oxygen therapy.

Home oxygen is prescribed by a physician for patients who need additional help breathing. It is very common for these patients to be life-long smokers.

While oxygen itself is safe, if a flame comes in contact with oxygen, there is a risk for severe burn injuries, property damage and death.

There needs to be a multi-faceted approach to this problem, including:

- Patient education
- Smoking cessation therapies
- Enhanced safety for home oxygen equipment
- Improved risk assessment about prescribing home oxygen for patients who are smokers

We would like to work with you to promote laws and regulations that prevent home oxygen burn injuries. As we further develop policy recommendations, can we follow up with you?