Situation: The Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Homewood campus is susceptible to both everyday emergencies, as well as mass casualty incidents (including acts of intentional harm). Severe bleeding is the single biggest cause of preventable trauma deaths and can occur in as little as a few minutes, well before the arrival of Fire & EMS resources. Best practices call for community interventions to stop severe bleeding as quickly as possible to help to reduce deaths among critically injured trauma patients. The national effort, titled “Stop the Bleed” is a White House led initiative supported by the American College of Surgeons that focuses on increasing access to bleeding control training and equipment. Stop the Bleed calls for the development and implementation of bleeding control programs in communities, including schools.

There is currently no Stop the Bleed program at JHU Homewood campus nor are there reports of Stop the Bleed campaigns on undergraduate campuses in the area.

Background: Over 5 million deaths occur annually from traumatic injuries across the world. Bleeding from traumatic injuries is the leading cause of potentially preventable death among trauma patients. Simple, and cost effective interventions exist. The Stop the Bleed Campaign is a national and international effort that aims to reduce the number of patients who die due to uncontrolled bleeding by at-least 20% in the next 5 years. The Department of Homeland Security describes four types of training opportunities to STOP the Bleed: 1) Bleeding Control for the Injured, 2) First Care Provider, 3) How to Use a Tourniquet, and 4) Improving Survivability.

Assessment: The Stop the Bleed program is designed to increase public resilience by increasing public knowledge of how to control severe bleeding. Successful programs have already sought to educate the non-medically trained, members of the general public on the use of tourniquets and wound packing. An opportunity exists to expand this program to the population of JHU’s campus. By educating the student population in these skills, and strategically placing this equipment with campus security vehicles and with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on campus, we can improve our overall public safety readiness for a major trauma incident and decrease the instance of preventable death. In addition, by working collaboratively with Campus Police to ensure public safety personnel are trained in the Stop the Bleed techniques, HERO can help ensure that in the event of an emergency, the first responders have the adequate medical training to treat injured students before emergency medical services arrive.

Recommendation: We propose Johns Hopkins University adopts Stop the Bleed in order to enhance public safety, provide education to the campus community, and decrease the chances of preventable death due to traumatic injuries on campus. By partnering with HERO and Johns Hopkins Medicine, HERO seeks to offer bleeding control courses, similar to hands-only CPR courses for members of the Homewood campus. As part of this initiative, bleeding control kits would be placed throughout the campus alongside AEDs, and with campus police quick response vehicles, so as to be easily accessible by the trained campus population.