



National Association  
OF  
State Head Injury Administrators

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**Action Alert!**

**Senate HELP Committee Passes Falls Bill to Include TBI Act!**

Greetings NASHIA Members:

On Wednesday, September 20, 2006, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, passed "The Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls and Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act," (S.1531), a public health bill designed to study the incidence and treatment of traumatic brain injury and to expand research on approaches to fall prevention and treatment for America's senior citizens. The bill passed by unanimous voice vote.

The first portion of the bill, "Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization," reauthorizes a study through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury, identify common therapeutic interventions and develop rehabilitation guidelines. It also reauthorizes grant programs through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop and improve State service delivery, coordinate TBI services and for protection and advocacy services for individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families. The bill does not include provisions to reduce or eliminate the State match requirements for the HRSA TBI State Grant Program.

The second portion of the bill, "The Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act," will direct the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to oversee and support national and local education campaigns focusing on reducing falls among older adults and preventing repeat falls.

The TBI Act of 2006 was introduced by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA) as S.3668. The majority of the provisions are now included in S.1531.

**Action: Advocates should now contact their senators urging them to support S.1531.**

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*This Action Alert was prepared for NASHIA members by Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, on behalf of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, chaired by Debra Kamen. To see NASHIA's Public Policy Platform click on*

<http://www.nashia.org/pdocfiles/PublicPolicyPlatform.pdf>

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**NASHIA is assisting State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.**