



National Association
OF
State Head Injury Administrators

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November 6, 2007

Action Alert! – Urgent Appropriations Alert

Greetings NASHIA Members:

The House and Senate have reached agreement on the FY 2008 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations (L-HHS-ED) spending bill and the House could vote on the conference agreement as early as this evening (November 6, 2007). The Labor-HHS-ED bill provides increases to many essential education, employment and health care programs, **including the HRSA and CDC Federal TBI Programs.**

President Bush has threatened to veto the L-HHS-ED appropriations bill because the conference report provides more discretionary funding than his proposed budget. The President’s budget cuts research, health and human services programs by \$859 million, including eliminating the HRSA Federal TBI Program that provides grants to State and state Protection & Advocacy Systems.

The conference agreement includes:

- **\$9.455 million for HRSA Federal TBI Program** (the Senate had recommended \$10 million and the House level funding, \$8.91)
- **\$5.96 for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)TBI Programs** (The House recommended \$5.816 million and Senate recommended \$6.287 million)

Also, the conferees agreed to:

- **\$2 million for Lifespan Respite Care** in keeping with the bill that passed last year

Immediate Action: Please contact your Representatives and Senators as soon as you receive this notice and urge them to vote for the FY 2008 Labor/HHS/Education appropriations conference agreement. We must secure enough votes to demonstrate that the President's veto can be overridden. In addition to TBI funding, many other critical funds for children, families, caregivers, individuals with disabilities and the aging population are at stake. The Capitol switchboard number is **202-224-3121**. You can ask to be connected to your Senators and Representative.

*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/pdf/publicpolicyplatform.pdf>.*

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