



National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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June 12, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Chairmen Lewis and Obey:

As you begin markup for the appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, we ask that you include \$30 million for all programs funded under the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act. While stakeholders and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force requested this amount, of which \$21 million would be for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI State and Protection and Advocacy Services Grant Programs, only \$8,910,000 was recommended by the House Appropriations Subcommittee.

Originally passed in 1996 (P.L. 104-166) and reauthorized in 2000 as part of the Children's Health Act (P.L. 106-310), the TBI Act is the only federal law that specifically addresses the rehabilitation and long-term care issues faced by individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families. The programs authorized provide assistance to states, state protection and advocacy systems, and other national organizations to address incidence and prevalence, prevention, education, research and community-living for people living with traumatic brain injury and their circles of support.

Since 1997, HRSA has awarded grants to states ranging from \$50,000-\$75,000 for planning grants to grants originally in the amount of \$200,000 for states to address unserved or underserved individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families. Over time, these grants known as implementation or post-demonstration grants were reduced to \$100,000, as more states began applying for assistance. This year, 41 states and territories are receiving grants to

improve access to services with states receiving \$100,000 and territories receiving \$75,000. The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) is requesting that the HRSA Federal TBI State Grant Program be increased to \$15 million so that all participating states may return to the \$200,000 level of support.

NASHIA also supports \$6 million for the state-based TBI Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Services Program. The past three years, Congress has only appropriated \$3 million for the HRSA P & A TBI Program. A \$6 million appropriation would increase allotments in all states and ensure that each state can provide a significant program of brain injury protection and advocacy, with an appropriate level of staff time and expertise.

The Institute of Medicine of the National recently issued its report on its 2006 study of the HRSA TBI Act Program and concluded that continued federal support at a sustainable level is necessary to build an effective system to meet the needs of individuals with TBI and their families. Therefore, we request your support for funding the TBI Act as amended, in the amount of \$30 million for FY 2007. We thank you for your continued leadership and support on behalf of individuals and families affected by brain injury.

Sincerely,



John, Capuco, Psy.D.
President, NASHIA

Cc: Members, Congressional Brain Injury Task Force