

Funding for TBI Act Programs

The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act of 1996, as amended in 2000, authorizes funding to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for (1) State grants to improve service delivery and for Protection & Advocacy (P&A) grants to provide client advocacy for individuals with TBI; and (2) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for public education, prevention and injury surveillance. NASHIA urges Congress to appropriate:

- **\$15 million** for the HRSA Federal TBI State Grant Program,
- **\$9 million** for CDC TBI programs,
- **\$6 million** for the HRSA TBI P&A Grant Program and to
- Designate funding for the TBI Technical Assistance Center and for HRSA administration.

TBI Act Reauthorization

NASHIA recommends that Congress support **H.R. 1418/S. 793**, which **reauthorize the TBI Act programs through 2011**, and:

- Expands HRSA TBI State Grant Program to include American Indian Consortia.
- Directs CDC, Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health and Department of Veterans Affairs to report how they can improve the collection and dissemination of the incidence and prevalence of TBI in the military and veteran populations.

Community and Family Supports

Individuals with TBI and their families may be eligible for services and supports from various disability programs. NASHIA supports:

- Reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Act.
- Funding for the Lifespan Respite Care Act (P.L. 109-442) for caregivers of individuals with disabilities of any age.
- Funding and legislation designed to rebalance long-term care systems to provide necessary community services and supports in lieu of institutional care.

Housing

NASHIA supports increased funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, the 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities and the HOME block grant program that helps create affordable housing for low-income households.

Health and Long-Term Care

NASHIA believes Medicare and Medicaid benefits should be protected to ensure that the health, rehabilitation and long-term care needs of individuals with TBI are met. NASHIA urges Congress to:

- Maintain adequate Federal spending for the Medicaid program.
- Fund the Trauma Systems Planning and Development Act.
- Ensure that Medicaid “optional services” continue to be fully funded (i.e. rehabilitation, therapies, case management).

Health Care for Children

Children with TBI should be afforded necessary health care and related services. NASHIA, therefore, supports:

- Funding for the HRSA Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.
- Reauthorization and increased funding for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

- Comprehensive benefits under the Medicaid E&PSDT program.
- Funding for Medicaid school health and related services for children with disabilities.

Employment

Persons with TBI often need vocational and employment services in order to return to work. NASHIA supports:

- Funding for the Supported Employment and Projects with Industry (PIC) programs as authorized by the Rehabilitation Act.
- Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and the Rehabilitation Act.

Social Security

NASHIA urges Congress to protect income support programs and their related health coverage programs in the Social Security Act, including the Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that are critical for people with disabilities.

Legal Rights

NASHIA supports legislation that restores and strengthens the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Prevention

TBI is the result of traffic related injuries, falls, assaults/weapons, occupational and sporting injuries, as well as war-related injuries.

NASHIA supports programs and laws designed to reduce the number of TBI related injuries and deaths, including:

- Funding to State health departments for injury surveillance, coordination of resources and public education.

- Traffic safety programs and incentives for State mandatory laws requiring: (1) motorcycle helmet usage for all riders, (2) primary safety belt usage, (3) prohibition of open containers of alcohol in vehicles, and (4) strong DUI/ DWI laws.



Military and Returning Service Personnel

TBI is the signature injury of servicemembers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. NASHIA supports:

- Increased funding for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center.
- Increased coordination of resources among DoD, the Veterans Administration and local and State TBI programs to assure that injured service personnel get necessary help, care, support and services.

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

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The NASHIA Public Policy Platform is available on the www.nashia.org.

*NASHIA is a member of:
American Brain Coalition
Campaign for Children's Health Care
Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities*

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Legislative Priorities



110th Congress

-- Second Session --

*Developed by the
NASHIA Public Policy Committee*

January 2008

About NASHIA

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) was established by State government employees to help one another plan, implement and administer public programs and services for individuals with brain injury and their families.

NASHIA members represent a broad spectrum of State agencies including health, vocational rehabilitation, mental health, Medicaid, social services, developmental disabilities, and education. Associate membership is represented by rehabilitation professionals and agencies, advocates and other interested persons.

Mission

NASHIA's mission is to assist State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.

About Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults. It is caused by a sudden jolt, blow or penetrating injury to the head that that disrupts the normal function of the brain. The injury often results in problems with thinking, emotions, language, physical mobility and sensory that affects how a person is able to live and work independently.

TBI is a complex disability that challenges States' ability to respond to the individual and family needs. Their needs may range from rehabilitation to community and family support to long-term care. Without coordinated systems of care, individuals are often placed inappropriately into nursing homes or left to the families to care for without much support or assistance.