



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASHIA Applauds the House of Representatives for Passing H.R. 2992, the TBI & PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act

Late last night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bi-partisan bill, which is now headed to the U.S. Senate.

Washington, D.C. -- The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) Executive Director, Rebecca Wolfkiel, is excited to announce that late last night the U.S. House of Representatives passed the TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act (H.R. 2992). The bill is sponsored by Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-chairs Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Don Bacon (R-NE); Reps. Val Demings (D-FL) and John Rutherford (R-FL). The bi-partisan bill passed by a vote of 400-21.

The legislation requires the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to consult with relevant agencies to establish crisis intervention training tools for first responders to address individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI), acquired brain injuries (ABI), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In supporting the House bill, NASHIA, in the Statement for the Record, noted the need for training and coordination of resources at the state and local levels to better identify and support individuals with brain injury who are justice-involved. Behavioral and cognitive impairments associated with brain injuries can contribute to challenges related to impulse control and reasoning that can lead to unnecessary escalated justice encounters without proper accommodations.

"We applaud the passage of the TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act by the US House of Representatives. We sincerely thank Representatives Pascrell, Bacon, Demings, and Rutherford for their leadership in introducing this important legislation. Recognizing possible signs and symptoms of brain injury in individuals encountered by law enforcement and training them on the simple supports needed to engage with those affected by brain injury can reduce escalation and harm. It also empowers law enforcement to do their jobs successfully and, when appropriate, refer individuals to services. We appreciate the House's focus on this significant legislation to provide Crisis Intervention Training and look forward to working with the Senate and Administration to progress this effort." - Rebecca Wolfkiel, Executive Director, National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)

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NASHIA is a nonprofit organization representing state employees who administer services and provide resources for people with brain injury, and their families. For more information, visit www.nashia.org.

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