



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Rebecca Wolfkiel, Executive Director
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
Phone: 202-681-7840
Email: rwolfkiel@nashia.org

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NASHIA Applauds Congress Passing the TBI & PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act

H.R. 2992 has cleared the U.S. Senate and it's on its way to President Joe Biden for his signature!

Washington, D.C. -- Yesterday, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 2992, the "Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Law Enforcement Training Act," by unanimous consent and the bill is now headed to President Joe Biden for his signature! The legislation authorizes \$270 million over five years to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC), and funds a new police training program to help law enforcement and first responders better recognize and respond to people suffering from TBI and PTSD. H.R. 2992 was 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) and in the Senate (S. 4286) by Senators Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA).

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA), in its Statement for the Record to Congressional committees, 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. Without proper accommodations, 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.

"We applaud the passage of the TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act by the US Senate. We sincerely thank Senators Ossoff and Grassley and Representatives Pascrell, Bacon, Demings, and Rutherford for their leadership in introducing this important legislation. We know that approximately 60-80% of justice-involved individuals have a lifetime history of brain injury. Given this significant statistic, it is imperative that our public safety officers receive training to recognize possible signs and symptoms of brain injury

and teach them the simple supports needed to engage with those affected by brain injury. This effort will improve the safety of law enforcement professionals by preparing them to deescalate challenging situations. It will also help identify law enforcement professionals who may have sustained a brain injury themselves on the job or elsewhere. We appreciate the Senate's focus on this significant legislation to provide Crisis Intervention Training and look forward to the President's signature," said **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.

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators | PO Box 1878, Alabaster, AL 35007

[Unsubscribe info@nashia.org](mailto:info@nashia.org)

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