



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**



Capitol News!

April 13, 2022

Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to the second edition of *Capitol News!* 2022. Since the first issue was published, we have learned that the increased funding for fiscal year 2022 for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Partnership Program that funds State grants increased by \$400,000 and Congress appropriated \$500,000 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Injury Center to establish the National Concussion Surveillance System. On March 28, the President released his recommendations for fiscal year 2023. Read further in this issue to learn more about his recommendations. Members of both the House and the Senate are in their home districts this week and next for recess.

Meanwhile, NASHIA is advocating for FY 2023 appropriations and other legislation reported in this issue. You may find recent public policy materials and handouts on the [website](#). We encourage you to use them as you see fit. If you have any questions, please email Susan Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, at svaughn@nashia.org.

CBITF Co-Chairs and Senator Van Hollen Circulate "Dear Colleague" Letters to Garner Support for Increased FY 2023 Funding for TBI Programs

Both the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Co-Chairs Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Don Bacon (R-NE), and Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) are circulating "Dear Colleague" letters in their respective bodies to gain support for additional funding for TBI programs and research. The deadline for U.S. Representatives to sign on to the House letter is April 22nd and for Senators is May 25th in order for letters to be turned in to the H/S Appropriations Committees.

If you have not contacted your U.S. Representative/Senators to enlist their support, we encourage you to do. Information on how to contact your Representative and Senators, as well as "boiler plate" language, is available on the NASHIA public policy pages [website](#) or you can contact Zaida Ricker at zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com or Susan Vaughn at svaughn@nashia.org for further information.

Representatives may sign on to the "Dear Colleague" **letter** circulated by Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. and Don Bacon, **by contacting Carrie Swope**, (carrie.swope@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Pascrell's office. Senators may sign on to the "Dear Colleague" **letter** circulated by Senator Chris Van Hollen, **by contacting Martha Sanchez** at Martha_Sanches@vanhollen.senate.gov.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Appropriations

President Releases FY 2023 Budget Recommendations

On March 28, 2022, President Biden issued his budget proposal for FY 2023. The proposed budget, which is sent to Congress, kicks off the appropriations process whereby both the Senate and House of Representatives appropriators will begin putting their own recommendations together. The proposed budget includes the \$400,000 increase for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Partnership program (\$8M total). Other highlights include the following:

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Community Living

- +\$101.426M-- Home and Community-based Supportive Services (\$500M total request)
- +\$1.297M -- Traumatic Brain Injury (\$13.118M total request for combined State grant and P&A grant programs)
- +\$2.149M -- National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (\$118,619M total request)
- +\$4.000M -- Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (\$5.000M total request)
- +\$5.5M -- Assistive Technology (\$44M total request)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) -- National Injury Center Prevention and Control

- \$0 -- Traumatic Brain Injury (\$6.75M, level funding)
- \$0 -- Elderly Falls (\$2.05M total request, level funding)
- +\$22.5M -- Firearm Injury & Mortality Prevention Research (\$35M total request)

Department of Education

Office of Special Education Programs

- +\$2915.489M -- Grants to States Part B (\$16259.193M total request)
- +\$93.071M -- Preschool Grants (\$502.62M total request)
- +\$15M -- Parent Information Centers (\$45.152M total request)

Rehabilitative Services Administration

- + \$230.586M -- Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants (\$3,949.707M total request)
- \$0 -- Client Assistance State Grants (\$13M total request, level funding)
- - \$1M -- Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (\$18.15M total request)
- \$0 -- Supported Employment State grants (\$22.548M total request, level funding)

Other Legislation

Lawmakers Introduce Bill Targeting Resources for Long COVID

Last Thursday, lawmakers released a press release regarding the introduction of bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate to increase access to medical care and treatment for communities and individuals struggling with Long COVID. The bills will fund the expansion of Long COVID Clinics and empower health care providers—including community health centers and local public health departments—to treat Long COVID patients in their own communities. Supporting the “Targeting Resources for Equitable Access to Treatment for Long COVID (TREAT Long COVID)” are Representatives Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Don Beyer (D-VA) and Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Edward J. Markey (D-MA).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people with Long COVID may experience a combination of symptoms, ranging from extreme fatigue and cognitive dysfunction or “brain fog,” to muscle pain and gastrointestinal issues, to difficulty breathing, insomnia, and heart palpitations. The TREAT Long COVID Act would expand treatment for Long COVID nationwide by:

- Authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to award grants up to \$2,000,000 to health care providers, including community health centers;
- Granting funding for the creation and expansion of multidisciplinary Long COVID clinics to address the physical and mental health needs of patients;
- Prioritizing funding for health providers that plan to engage medically underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19;
- Ensuring that treatment is not denied based on insurance coverage, date or method of diagnosis, or previous hospitalization;
- Encouraging ongoing medical training for physicians in Long COVID Clinics and other health care workers serving patients; and
- Requiring grantees to submit an annual report on its activities that includes evaluations from patients.

House Education and Labor Committee Passes Reauthorization of the WIOA of 2022

On April 5, 2022, the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee marked-up and passed the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2022. H.R. 7309 reauthorizes the WIOA for six years and fully funds the workforce development system to ensure workers can get the skills they need to secure more sustainable careers. The bill also codifies the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant program (SCCTG) and reentry programs for people after incarceration. The authorization for WIOA expired in 2020.

The Committee also advanced H.R. 7310, Protecting America’s Retirement Security Act, to strengthen the retirement system to protect workers’ retirement savings and better support families and employers. These improvements include helping workers understand the fees they pay on retirement investments, strengthening retirement plan protections for spouses, and encouraging workers to build emergency savings.

Legislators Introduce Bills to Collect Data on Brain Injury Resulting from IVP/DV

On March 30, Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Co-chairs, Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) introduced H.R. 7301 and Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced S. 3962 to authorize the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to collect data on prevalence of brain injuries resulting from intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault. These bills are in keeping with recommendation from the U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) that studied State and national initiatives addressing brain injury due to intimate partner or domestic violence. NASHIA supports these bills.

Senate Confirmations

Senate Confirms SCOTUS Justice

Last Thursday, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), making her the first Black woman to serve as a Supreme Court justice. She will not take the bench until the court returns from its summer break in October, after Justice Breyer’s retirement who she is replacing. She has the distinction of being a former public

defender, in addition to serving as a Judge on the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, District Court Judge for the U.S. District Court for District of Columbia, and Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Committee. She is a graduate of the Harvard Law School where she was the editor of the Harvard Law Review.

The Supreme Court issues decisions regarding education, Social Security benefits, veterans benefits, and disability rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that impact individuals with disabilities. Most notably, SCOTUS handed down the Olmstead decision in 1999 affirming the rights of individuals with disabilities to live in their home/communities of choice in lieu of institutional care.

This *Capitol News* was prepared by:

Susan L. Vaughn, Director of Public Policy, publicpolicy@nashia.org

Zaida Ricker, NASHIA Governmental Relations, zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com

Jennifer Braun, Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee
Jennifer.Braun@health.mo.gov

Rebecca Wolfkiel, NASHIA Executive Director, execdirector@nashia.org

*The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government
in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs
of individuals with brain injuries and their families.*

Support States. Grow Leaders. Connect Partners.