



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**



Capitol News!

June 1, 2022

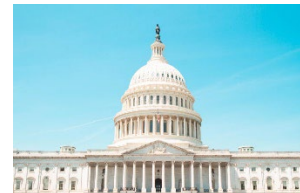
Dear NASHIA Member,

Welcome to the third edition of *Capitol News!* 2022. The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have been on Memorial Day recess, however, since the recent mass shootings, the House Judiciary Committee plans to vote on H.R. 7910, the "Protecting Our Kids Act," on Thursday, while the Senate is discussing bi-partisan measures the Senate can support.

Since the last issue, NASHIA has been advocating for increased fiscal year 2023 appropriations for brain injury programs. NASHIA staff have met with House and Senate appropriations staff and provided written testimony to both the House and Senate appropriators. Staff have also been working on other legislation, including the House and Senate "TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act," introduced in both legislative bodies. The full House passed H.R. 2992 mid-May and Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA) has introduced similar legislation, S. 4286. Read further in this issue as to how you can help with moving this legislation forward.

Meanwhile, the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, chaired by Jennifer Braun, is hosting a Zoom webinar, *Capitol News Live!*, on June 21, 2022, to further update members on the status of legislation and actions that members can take to advance NASHIA's priorities. Below is information regarding registration. As always, public policy materials and handouts are available 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.

**NASHIA Public Policy Committee Schedules Webinar: June
21, 2022
1:00-2:00pm (Central)**



Join NASHIA's Public Policy Committee on a Zoom webinar for a legislative update **Tuesday, June 21, from 1:00-2:00pm (Central) / 2:00-3:00pm (ET)**. NASHIA Public Policy Committee Chair, Jennifer Braun, will lead the discussion with Zaida Ricker, NASHIA Governmental Relations Consultant, and Susan Vaughn, NASHIA Director of Public Policy, providing updates. We welcome your participation. **Register** in advance for this webinar.

Call to Action!

Urge Your Senators to Support S.4286, "TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act"

Senator Ossoff is pushing for the Senate Judiciary Committee to hear S.4286 next week and he can use your help. We are asking NASHIA members to contact their Senators in support of the "TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act." You can find your Senators by searching for your State [here](#). You can locate your U.S. Senators contact information [here](#).

If your Senator(s) is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee (see below), please ask him/her to support the bill by urging the committee to schedule a hearing as soon as possible, preferably next week. You may call and ask for staff involved with criminal justice matters or you may email from the Senator's website. (You may read NASHIA's Statement of Record submitted to the House Judiciary Committee [here](#).)

As always, if you have any questions or receive information to share with NASHIA, contact Zaida Ricker at zricker@ridgepolicygroup.com.

Below is a sample message for your consideration:

- Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a constituent who lives in [YOUR STATE/TOWN].
- I'm calling to ask for the Senator's support of S.4286, the "TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act."
- This legislation will establish crisis intervention training tools for first responders in interacting with individuals with brain injuries.
- [Provide details on what your State has done to support law enforcement interaction with brain injury or how this would be beneficial to supporting individuals with brain injury in the State.]
- This legislation passed through the US House with overwhelmingly bipartisan support.
- Please cosponsor this legislation and urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to consider it as soon as possible.
- You may offer to furnish additional information as requested.
- Please be sure to provide your contact information.
- Be sure to thank the Senator for his/her support.

Senate Judiciary Committee

Democrats

Sen. Dick Durbin, Chair (D-IL)
Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)
Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA)

Republicans

Sen. Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member (R-IA)
Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)
Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE)
Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)
Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA)
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Appropriations

NASHIA Provides Written Testimony to House and Senate Appropriators

House and Senate Appropriations' Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related agencies are working on fiscal year 2023 appropriations for federal agencies and programs under their jurisdiction. You may view NASHIA's House testimony [here](#) and the Senate testimony submitted [here](#).

Other Legislation

House Committee Advances the Cognitive Research Act

On May 17, the House Committee on Science, Space & Technology advanced H.R. 7180, the "Brycen Gray and Ben Price COVID-19 Cognitive Research Act," sponsored by Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH). The purpose is for grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection. The grants would support interdisciplinary research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with both short-term and long-term COVID-19 infections, including with respect to children and adolescents.

Kansas Senator Introduces Bill on Caregiving Eligibility for Veterans Living with TBI

Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS), Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, has recently introduced S. 3964, the "Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAF)," by creating fair and commonsense processes for evaluating and assessing veterans who are dependent on a caregiver, including veterans with brain injury. The bill would amend the PCAFC to make certain mental health professionals and neurological specialists participate in the evaluation and assessment process for veterans.

Senate Confirmations

Senate HELP Committee Recommends ACL Administrator

On May 27, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) advanced the nomination of Rita Landgraf to be both the Assistant Secretary for Aging and the Administrator for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by a vote of 18-4. She previously served as the President of AARP Delaware, as Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Delaware, and Executive Director of the Arc, as well as Cabinet Secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. NASHIA submitted a support letter on her behalf.

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.

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