



Give hope to the 1.7 million individuals who sustain a brain injury each year!

SUSTAIN AND BOLSTER TBI ACT PROGRAMS

➤ About Brain Injury

A traumatic brain injury is an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 1.7 million people in the U.S. sustain traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) annually and at least 5.3 million children and adults live with a permanent disability as a result of a TBI. The cost to society for medical care and lost wages associated with TBI is \$76.3 billion annually. Individuals with TBI may experience memory loss; concentration or attention problems; slowed learning; and difficulty with planning, reasoning or judgment. Emotional and behavioral consequences include depression, anxiety, impulsivity, aggression and thoughts of suicide. Physical challenges of TBI may include fatigue, headaches, problems with balance or motor skills, sensory losses and seizures. TBI can lead to respiratory, circulatory, digestive and neurological diseases, including epilepsy, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Poor outcomes after TBI result from shortened length of stays in both inpatient and outpatient medical treatment settings. Payers point to a lack of sufficient evidence-based research as a primary reason for coverage denial of medically-necessary treatment. This occurs particularly when behavioral health services and cognitive rehabilitation are needed.

➤ About BIAA

Founded in 1980, the mission of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is to advance brain injury prevention, research, treatment and education and to improve the quality of life for all people affected by brain injury. We are dedicated to increasing access to quality health care and raising awareness and understanding of brain injury. With a network of state affiliates, local chapters and support groups, BIAA provides help, hope and healing and serves as the Voice of Brain Injury for individuals who are injured, their families and the professionals who provide care.

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➤ Reauthorize the TBI Act in 2013

The TBI Act of 1996, as amended in 2008, authorizes agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct studies and establish innovative programs with respect to TBI. BIAA urges Congress to reauthorize this critical legislation in the 113th Congress and to amend the legislation to:

- Clarify the use of grant funds may support direct services.
- Provide funding to each state through a formula funding platform.
- Provide directives to include pediatric TBI services as part of the larger goals of the law.
- Support development of a long-range plan for the Federal TBI Program that includes public input.

➤ Appropriate \$22 million for TBI Act programs

Full funding of \$37 million is needed to advance research, awareness and treatment of brain injury. BIAA calls on Congress to work toward this goal by increasing this year's appropriations as follows:

CDC – Appropriate \$10 million to strengthen data collection; increase public awareness; conduct public health research; provide education and awareness to primary care providers; fund development and dissemination of acute care brain injury guidelines; and implement the provisions of the ConTACT Act, including concussion management guidelines and grants to states for concussion guideline dissemination.

HRSA State Grant Program – Appropriate \$8 million to sustain 21 existing grantees, fund four additional states, and provide training and technical assistance to grantees. This is a vital step to ensure that every state, territory, District of Columbia and the American Indian Consortium will be funded in future years.

HRSA Protection and Advocacy Program (P&A) – Appropriate \$4 million for population-based allotments to assist individuals with brain injury to exercise their rights and access public service systems.

➤ TAKE ACTION NOW!

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