

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 4334, which contains provisions for screening for fall-related TBIs. Contact your Senators Today!



Action Alert!

Contact Your Senators to Support H.R. 4334, includes TBI Screening Among Older Adults

National Association of State Head Injury
Administrators

October 28, 2019

The U.S. House of Representative has passed legislation reauthorizing the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, and included TBI in the bill for the first time. Read further to learn more and how you can help.

Dear NASHIA Member:

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed **H.R. 4334**, the **Dignity in Aging Act**, sponsored by Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA), which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act (OAA) for five years and increases funding for vital programs that help seniors live independently and with dignity. The bill includes an amendment offered by **Rep. Fred Keller (R-PA) in the Committee on Education and Labor in Sept., which was adopted, adding fall-related traumatic brain injuries (TBI) to the list of conditions covered under the Older Americans Act.** The amendment allows funding for screening for fall-related TBI and to promote public awareness in order to help detect these injuries early and ensure that seniors receive the care they need.

The bill will now go to the Senate, which will hopefully agree to the OAA reauthorization proposal. OAA program authority expired Sept. 30.

"The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) enthusiastically endorsed Congressman Keller's amendment to the Dignity in Aging Act and is pleased to support this bill," said NASHIA Executive Director Rebecca Wolfkiel. "Too often, older Americans are misdiagnosed, or go undiagnosed entirely, after receiving a brain injury as a result of a fall. This important effort will allow states and community-based service providers to more quickly detect a brain injury and connect older adults with important services and support."

What Can You Do?

Call or email your Senators to tell him/her to support H.R. 4334, reauthorizing funding for the Older Americans Act programs, including provisions relating to traumatic brain injury resulting from falls. (Click [here](#) to view NASHIA's letter sent to the House Oct. 19, 2019.)

You may access your Senators contact information [here](#). At the top of the page is "Find Your Senators" with a drop down box to click on your State.

Pointers:

- In 2014, falls were the leading cause of traumatic brain injuries and accounted for almost half of all traumatic brain injury-related emergency department visits.
- Four in five traumatic brain injury-related emergency department visits in older adults aged 65 years and older were caused by falls, and rates were even higher for individuals 75 and older.
- Rep. Keller's amendment, which was adopted, added fall-related traumatic brain injury services to the Older Americans Act's definition of "disease prevention and health promotion services." The amendment also allows existing grant programs to cover traumatic brain injury screening and efforts to raise public awareness.

Contact Your Senators!

Please feel free to circulate among your constituents -- consumers, advisory council/board members, advocacy and disability groups.



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STAY CONNECTED:



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