



Action Alert!

Contact Your Senators to Sign on to "Dear Colleague" Letter Supporting TBI Programs

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

March 20, 2020

For the first time, a Senate "Dear Colleague" letter is being circulated to gather Senate support for increased funding for TBI programs -- similar to the CBITF "Dear Colleague" letter in the House. The deadline is **March 25!** We need your help in getting support!

Dear NASHIA Member:

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) is circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter in the Senate to sign on in support of increased funding for the TBI Act programs administered by the Administration for Community Living (State Partnership Grants, P&A Grants) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The letter also calls for increased funding for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) TBI Model Systems, also administered by the ACL.

This is the first Senate "Dear Colleague" letter in the history of the TBI programs. Please reach out to your Senators and ask them to sign this letter by **Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00 pm (ET)**. A copy of the letter is [here](#).

Senators interested in signing on and/or who want additional information should contact Alyssa Penn in Senator's Van Hollen's office:
Alyssa_Penna@vanhollen.senate.gov

What Can You Do?

Call your Senators TODAY at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to support increased funding for TBI programs by signing on to Sen. Van Hollen's letter.

Easy Call/E-mail Script:

Hello, this is [Name]. I'm a resident of [Town, State]. I am calling (or writing) to urge you to support **increased funding for the Administration for Community Living's**

TBI State Partnership Grant, P&A Grant, and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) program, and well as \$5 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national concussion surveillance project. We are requesting the additional funding to address the 2.3 million Americans who sustain a TBI each year, and the millions who are living with a TBI every day. Nearly half of the states do not receive funding to address the expanding needs of individuals with TBI which are necessary to return to school, work, home and community and to live as independently as possible. States that do receive funding receive a small amount -- not nearly enough to address the needs.

Should you wish additional information and/or to sign on in support, you may contact Alyssa Penn in Senator's Van Hollen's office: Alyssa_Penna@vanhollen.senate.gov.

Thank you for considering this request!

[IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL/Email: please leave your full street address and zip code to ensure your call is tallied as a constituent and for staff to contact you for further information.]

[Optional Add On]

Personal stories are the most effective form of advocacy. Talk about why funding is needed to expand community-based services is important for you or someone you know and love.

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



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