



ACTION ALERT!

President's Budget Calls for Elimination of TBI State Grant Program and Other TBI Program Cuts

Contact Appropriators Now!

This is a **Call for Action** for advocates to contact their Senators and Representative who are House/Senate appropriations committee/subcommittee members to urge them to support vital TBI programs as noted below. If your Senators and Representative are not members, then ask them to contact the Committee/ and Subcommittee Chairs to support the funding.

Of particular concern, the President's Proposed fiscal year **2018 budget calls for the elimination of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) Federal TBI State Implementation Grant Program**, the State Developmental Disabilities Councils and the Independent Living, Part B (IL) funding, also administered by ACL, and folds them, into an "innovation" grant program with less than half of the funding these programs receive when combined. The President's budget also calls for cuts and/or elimination of programs administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and cuts to the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) and as noted below.

NASHIA, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) are collaborating to convey to appropriators the impact of the elimination of these ACL programs on their represented constituencies. The organizations are sending a joint letter to appropriators and will be coordinating Hill visits. **But, we need your help!**

We are asking that you do the same by reaching out to your brain injury state affiliate/alliance/foundation, State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Statewide Independent Living Councils, as well as disability/TBI providers, families, individuals with brain injury, and professionals to coordinate your message as to how elimination of these programs, particularly the Federal TBI State Implementation Grant, CDC TBI programs, and TBI Model Systems, will impact service delivery for individuals with brain injury in your State.

Below, you will find a sample letter/email message; talking points; list of committee/subcommittee Members and information as to how to contact them. Please be sure to let Rebeccah Wolfkiel and/or Amy Colberg know of your efforts, any questions or concerns expressed by those you contacted and/or if you need further information. You may contact Rebeccah at rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com or Amy at acolberg@biausa.org.

Background:

The TBI Act of 1996, as amended, authorizes funding to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for surveillance, injury prevention and public/professional education and for State grants, currently administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), to improve access to service delivery. The 2000 Amendments authorized funding for state Protection & Advocacy Systems, however, the President is recommending that program to be level funded. Since 1987, the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) has funded TBI Model Systems, of which 16 centers are currently funded. Similarly, federal legislation authorizes funding for the State Developmental Disabilities Councils and the Independent Living Part B program, which provides funding for Statewide Independent Living Councils, State IL Plans, and other State activities.

President's FY 2018 Budget Proposal:

- **Eliminates the Administration for Community Living (ACL) TBI State Implementation Grant Program**
 - Currently 19 States receive grant funding
 - Since 1997, 48 States have received grant funding
 - Grants have been used to develop and expand services for children by establishing TBI service coordination through Special Health Care Needs Program; training and education of public school educators to improve IEP development and educational outcomes; improved transition from hospital/rehabilitation to home; and services to underserved or unserved populations, including victims of domestic violence; veterans/returning servicemembers with TBI; individuals with severe behavioral issues or mental health and/or substance use and individuals with TBI with vision problems; and development of community services through Medicaid waiver programs or State trust fund programs.
 - Current grantees provide screening, training, Information & Referral, and Resource Facilitation services to targeted populations, including early childhood; juvenile justice/criminal justice; veterans/returning servicemembers with TBI; and older adults.
- **Cuts NIDILRR funding by \$9M overall**
 - 16 TBI Model Systems; National Model Systems Database; Model Systems Knowledge Translation
- **Cuts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Injury Center by just over \$19M**
- Rolls the TBI Program into another line; level funding is \$6.7M and plans to:
 - Continue to support TBI prevention efforts related to surveillance and program implementation through the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Programs (SVIPP).
 - Release a Report to Congress on brain injury management within children.
 - Release, disseminate and encourage uptake of CDC's pediatric mild TBI (mTBI)

- Continue to support HEADS UP via educational initiatives.
- Eliminates the elder falls prevention program (-\$2.5 M)
- Cuts core state violence and injury prevention program (-\$8.6M cut); and the
- Eliminates the Injury Control Research Centers (-\$9M).

Resources:

[NASHIA Senate Testimony](#)

How can You Help?

Contact Your Senators and Representative! Today!

Phone Call: The most effective way is to call them directly. Click here to find their phone numbers. You may ask for the staffer responsible for health and/or disability issues to discuss why TBI State grant funding, the CDC TBI program and TBI Model Systems research projects are important to you and your State. Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent and you may use talking points listed below.

Email: To find your Representative's contact information, click here (<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>) and your Senators here (<https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>). E-mails should be sent from a constituent's e-mail account directly to the health or disability Legislative Assistant (LA). State workers and other employees may want to send from your personal e-mail account at home. Form letters/emails or not effective. However, a sample letter is included in this Alert to help you form your message. Be sure to:

- Identify yourself as a constituent
- Get straight to the point - tell what you want him/her to do and why important to you and your State
- Include your name and contact information
- Express appreciation and offer to provide further information

Click [here](#) for Sample Letter/email.

Talking Points:

Lawmakers should protect the TBI State Grant Program, the only federal program specifically helping states to outreach and provide assistance to individuals with brain injury and their families. Therefore, lawmakers should continuing funding the grant program as a separate program:

- The TBI Act is the only Federal program focused on issues faced by individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families; and is the only Federal funding assisting States to address these unique and complex service needs.
- Reject proposals to co-mingle grant programs, which have differing missions, purposes and populations with unique disabling conditions.
- In comparison to other disability populations, TBI is significantly underfunded in terms of number of individuals each year who incur a TBI-related disability.
- Fully funding the State Grant Program is critical in order for all States to develop, improve and

expand service delivery. Elimination will set back efforts in the States.

- Without coordinated resources to improve access to care and community living and supports, individuals with brain injury end up homeless, in our jails/correctional facilities, institutions and nursing homes. While much work has been done in developing service delivery, there are still gaps in service delivery that present hardships on individuals with TBI and the family that make it difficult for individuals to live and work in the community without supports (CITE EXAMPLES THAT ARE PERTINENT IN YOUR STATE).

Senate and House Committee and Subcommittee Members:

Senate Appropriations Committee:

Majority Members (Republicans):

Cochran, Thad (MS), Chairman
Mitch McConnell (KY)
Shelby, Richard C. (AL)
Alexander, Lamar (TN)
Collins, Susan M. (ME)
Lisa Murkowski, Lisa (AK)
Graham, Lindsey (SC)
Blunt, Roy (MO)
Moran, Jerry (KS)
Hoeven, John (ND)
Boozman, John (AR)
Capito, Shelley Moore (WV)
Daines, Steve (MT)
Kennedy, John (LA)
Rubio, Marco (FL)

Minority Members (Democrats):

Patrick Leahy (VT), Vice Chairman
Murray, Patty (WA)
Feinstein, Dianne (CA)
Durbin, Richard J. (IL)
Reed, Jack (RI)
Tester, Jon (MT)
Udall, Tom (NM)
Shaheen, Jeanne (NH)
Merkley, Jeff (OR)
Coons, Christopher A. (DE)
Schatz, Brian (HI)
Baldwin, Tammy (WI)
Murphy, Christopher (CT)
Manchin, Joe (WV)
Van Hollen, Chris (MD)

Senate Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED-Related Agencies

Majority Members:

Blunt, Roy (MO), Chairman
Cochran, Thad (MS)
Shelby, Richard C. (AL)
Alexander, Lamar (TN)
Graham, Lindsey (SC)
Moran, Jerry (KS)
Capito, Shelley Moore (WV)
Lankford, James (OK)
Kennedy, John (LA)
Rubio, Marco (FL)

Minority Members:

Murray, Patty (WA), Ranking Member
Durbin, Richard J. (IL)
Reed, Jack (RI)
Shaheen, Jeanne (NH)
Merkley, Jeff (OR)
Schatz, Brian (HI)
Baldwin, Tammy (WI)
Murphy, Christopher (CT)
Manchin, Joe (WV)

House Appropriations Committee:

Majority Members (Republicans):

Frelinghuysen, Rodney (NJ), Chairman
Harold Rogers, Rogers (KY)
Aderholt, Robert B. (AL)
Granger, Kay (TX)
Simpson, Michael K. (ID)
Culberson, John Abney (TX)
Carter, John R. (TX)
Calvert, Ken (CA)
Cole, Tom (OK)
Diaz-Balart, Mario (FL)
Dent, Charles W. (PA)
Graves, Tom (GA)
Yoder, Kevin (KS)
Womack, Steve (AR)
Fortenberry, Jeff (NE)
Rooney, Thomas J. (FL)
Fleischmann, Charles J. (TN)
Beutler, James Herrera (WA)
Joyce, David P. (OH)
Valadao, David G. (CA)
Harris, Andy MD (MD)
Roby, Martha (AL)
Amodei, Mark E. (NV)
Stewart, Chris (UT)
Young, David (IA)
Jenkins, Evan H. (WV)
Palazzo, Steven (MS)
Newhouse, Dan (WA)
Moolenaar, John R. (MI)
Taylor, Scott (VA)

Minority Members (Democrats):

Lowey, Nita M., (NY), Ranking Member
Kaptur, Marcy (OH)
Visclosky, Peter J. (IN)
Serrano, José E. (NY)
DeLauro, Rosa L. (CT)
Roybal-Allard, Lucille (CA)
Bishop, Jr., Sanford D. (GA)
Lee, Barbara (CA)
McCollum, Betty (MN)
Ryan, Tim (OH)
Ruppersberger, C.A. Dutch (MD)
Schultz Wasserman, Debbie (FL)
Cuellar, Henry (TX)
Pingree, Chellie (ME)
Quigley, Mike (IL)
Kilmer, Derek (WA)
Cartwright, Matt (PA)
Meng, Grace (NY)
Pocan, Mark (WI)
Clark, Katherine M. (MA)
Aguilar, Pete (CA)

House Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED-Related Agencies

Majority Members:

Cole, Tom (OK), Chairman
Womack, Steve (AR), Vice Chair
Simpson, Mike (ID)
Fleischmann, Chuck (TN)
Harris, Andy MD (MD)
Roby, Martha (AL)
Beutler, Jaime Herrera (WA)
Moolenaar, John (MI)

Minority Members:

DeLauro, Rosa, (CT), Ranking Member
Roybal-Allard, Lucille (CA)
Lee, Barbara (CA)
Pocan, Mark (WI)
Clark, Katherine (MA)

Bold indicates grantee States. However, all members need to be contacted to let them know the extent of TBI and the value of this program. If you have a Member serving on one of these committees and not a grantee, let them know your State needs one and why.

Please feel free to forward and share with disability advocates, families and individuals with brain injury in your State.

NASHIA | Phone: 802-498-3349 | publicpolicy@nashia.org | www.nashia.org

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
PO Box 878
Waitsfield, VT 05673