



## Action Alert!

### Senate Appropriators to Mark Up Labor-HHS Spending Bill!

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Ed is scheduled to mark up its version of the FY 2017 Labor-HHS appropriations tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10:30am (ET) followed by Senate Appropriations Committee (full committee) on Thursday at 10:30am (ET). Advocates should contact their senators who are committee/subcommittee member to urge them to support increased TBI funding, including \$5 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement a national concussion surveillance system. If your senators are not members, then ask them to contact the Committee/Subcommittee Chairs to support the funding. While many believe that the House will be unable to pass stand alone appropriations bills, it is important that the Senate support increased funding going forward.

#### **NASHIA supports:**

- **Increased funding for the Federal TBI State Grant Program**, housed in the Administration for Community Living's (ACL), Administration on Disabilities' Independent living Administration to increased the number of State grantees - *only 20 States currently receive grant funding.*
- **\$5 M for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement a national concussion surveillance system.**
- **Increased funding for the Federal TBI P&A Grant Program** housed in the Administration for Community Living's (ACL), Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- **Increased funding for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)** housed in the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) for expanded number of

**TBI Model Systems**, currently 16, and to increase the amount awarded for each TBI Model System.

**NASHIA Urges Senate Appropriators to Increase Funding for TBI Because:**

- ***TBI is an important national priority!***
- States need coordinated resources to improve access to care, community living and supports! Less than half of the States currently receive a federal grant to improve service delivery.
- As many current counts of concussion injury among children are based solely on emergency department (E.D.) visits or on organized high school and college athletics data, we may be vastly underestimating child and youth concussions in the US. **We need better surveillance that captures a broader range of concussions experienced by children and adolescents. to accurately determine the incidence of concussions.**
- **Research is needed to further the field of TBI treatment, rehabilitation and service delivery!**

**How to Contact Your Senators**

**Phone Call:** The most effective way is to call them directly. Click [here](#) to find their phone numbers and e-mail. You may ask for the staffer over health and/or disability issues to discuss why TBI grant funding and the CDC national concussion surveillance project are important to you and your State.

**Talking Points:**

- 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 program assisting States to address these unique and complex service needs.
  - Increased funding is needed for the ACL Federal TBI Grant Program to ensure funding for every State, Territory and the District of Columbia. Currently, less than half of the States have received a 4-year grant to improve and expand services for individuals with TBI and their families.
  - The ACL Federal TBI Grant Program affords people with TBI protection and advocacy (P&A) services to help them to access systems, make sure their legal and human rights are protected, and to make sure they are free from abuse and neglect.
  - 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).
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**Senate Appropriations Committee:**

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McConnell, Mitch (KY)  
Shelby, Richard C. (AL)  
Alexander, Lamar (TN)  
Collins, Susan M. (ME)  
Murkowski, Lisa (AK)  
Graham, Lindsey (SC)  
Kirk, Mark (IL)  
Blunt, Roy (MO)  
Moran, Jerry (KS)  
Hoeven, John (ND)  
Boozman, John (AR)  
Capito, Shelley Moore (WV)  
Cassidy, Bill (LA)  
Lankford, James (OK)  
Daines, Steve (MT)

**Minority Members (Democrats):**

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Murray, Patty (WA)  
Feinstein, Dianne (CA)  
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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)

**Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and  
Education, and Related Agencies**

**Majority Members:**

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Cassidy, Bill (LA)  
Capito, Shelley Moore (WV)  
Lankford, James (OK)

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