



Chronology of State Policy Initiatives

1970's

- In 1978, Tennessee became the first state to pass legislation requiring child safety restraints.

1980's

- In 1981, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services established the Alabama State Head Injury Program (ALASHIP) at the state Lakeshore Rehabilitation Facility to provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with TBI.
- In 1984, the California legislature passed the Comprehensive Act for Families and Caregiver of Brain-Impaired Adults to set up a system of 11 regional centers, called Caregiver Resource Centers, to serve families of individuals who received a brain injury after the age of 18.
- In 1984, the Virginia legislature established a central registry requiring hospitals to report to the Department of Rehabilitative Services information on persons with a brain injury to facilitate appropriate services by the Department and other agencies.
- In 1984, New York passed the first mandatory safety belt legislation.
- In 1985, both the Massachusetts and Missouri legislatures appropriated funding for services for individuals with traumatic brain injury -- in Massachusetts the vocational rehabilitation agency administered the program, while in Missouri, it was the health department.
- In 1985, the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council was created by Executive Order in the Missouri Office of Administration to plan and make recommendations for improved service delivery.
- In 1985, the Georgia legislature added traumatic brain injuries to the Central Registry for Spinal Cord Injuries which was created by legislation in 1978.

- In 1985, the Pennsylvania legislature established the Pennsylvania Catastrophic Medical and Rehabilitation Fund under the Emergency Medical Services Act, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health subsequently implemented the Head Injury Program in 1988.
- In 1985, Wisconsin passed legislation defining TBI as a developmental disability regardless of age of onset occurred, with North Carolina also passing similar legislation in 1987.
- In 1986, the Missouri General Assembly created the Missouri Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry requiring all hospitals to report head injuries to the Department of Health, establishing a state surveillance system, and the data regarding head injuries is to be reported to the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council.
- In 1987, the Kansas State Department of Education funded a TBI Project to provide in-service training to education and related services personnel to conduct pre-service training to undergraduate and graduate students in education courses at universities throughout the State of Kansas and to provide technical assistance and consultation to educators and parents of students with brain injury.
- In 1988, Florida legislation created the Impaired Drivers and Speeders Trust Fund to dedicate a portion of traffic fines for purposes of funding a network of case managers and rehabilitation technicians, supervised by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, to plan and coordinate services. The California legislature also passed trust fund legislation that year.
- In 1988, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation to expand the state Medicaid program to include comprehensive day services for post trauma patients.
- In 1989, the Minnesota legislature passed the “Services for Person with Traumatic Brain Injury” legislation which mandated the Department of Human Services to take a lead role in coordinating and supervising health care services for people with traumatic brain injury and to develop an administrative case management system for Medicaid-eligible clients with brain injuries.
- The Iowa Bureau of Special Education developed the program, Educational Services for Students with Head Injury, comprised of local teams to meet with rehabilitation hospitals, families, educators to assist with transition and integration of children in the classroom as the result of recommendations of a 1988 state task force.
- In 1989 the Virginia legislature designated the Department of Rehabilitative Services as the agency to provide case management services to individuals with brain injuries.
- In 1989, the Arizona Governor's Task Force on Head Injury was created by Executive Order to conduct a statewide needs assessment and the Task Force was

established in statute 1992. Funding (general revenue) was also appropriated in 1989 for I&R and peer support services.

- In 1989, the Iowa Legislature established the Advisory Council on Head Injuries within the Department of Human Rights, Division of persons with Disabilities. The council was transferred to the Department of Public Health in 1992, and currently located in the Bureau of Health Promotion.

1990's

- In 1990, the first State of the States in Head Injury meeting was convened by States to share information and expertise in state service delivery systems. These gatherings led to the creation of the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators in 1994.
- In 1990, the Ohio Head Injury Advisory Council (now the Brain Injury Advisory Council) was created by law and placed in the Ohio Department of Health. It was moved a year later to the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.
- In 1990, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation expanding the state definition for developmental disabilities for eligibility for services provided by the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to include head injury and to change the age of onset from 18 to 22.
- In 1991, the Nevada legislature appropriated state funding for services.
- In 1991, Kansas became the first State to implement a Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid waiver for individuals with traumatic brain injury and began a trend for states to pursue a waiver to fund service delivery. States that followed early on include Minnesota (1992), New Hampshire and New Jersey (both 1993), North Dakota and Vermont (1994); and Wisconsin, Colorado and South Carolina (1995).
- In 1991, Texas, Massachusetts, and Minnesota continued the trend for passing legislation establishing a trust fund for head and spinal cord injuries, followed by Alabama and Arizona in 1992, Tennessee and Louisiana in 1993, Mississippi in 1996, and New Mexico (1997).
- In 1991, Missouri passed legislation establishing a Division of Injury Prevention, Head Injury Rehabilitation and Local Health Services within the Department of Health. The department, through Executive Order, eliminated the division and transferred the head injury program to the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs in 1995.
- In 1992, the Nevada legislature appropriated state funding (general revenue) for TBI services and established an advisory council in 1993.

- In 1993, Tennessee legislature established the “Head and Spinal Cord Injury Information System Act” that created a state brain trauma registry and the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council, in addition to the trust fund.
- In 1993, the South Carolina legislature created a new Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) by combining the Department of Mental Retardation with programs for individuals with autism from the Department of Mental Health. The reorganization created a Head and Spinal Cord Injury Division.
- In 1993, North Carolina established a task force which evolved into a council in 1998.
- In 1993, the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services received a state appropriation for TBI services.
- In 1993, the New Hampshire legislature appropriated state funding (general revenue) to operate a registry through a contract with the Brain Injury Association.
- In 1994, Florida established the Florida Advisory Council on Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries through state legislation.
- In 1994, the New York legislature appropriated state match for HCBS TBI Medicaid Waiver and for housing supports that are not covered under the waiver services; and was implemented in 1995.
- In 1995, Michigan passed legislation establishing a trauma registry.
- In 1996, the Maryland legislature appropriated state funding (general revenue) to the Department of Mental Hygiene for TBI services.
- In 1996, the West Virginia legislature passed legislation creating a Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council.
- In 1996, Iowa and Utah implemented the HCBS s TBI Medicaid Waiver, Idaho implemented HCBSS in 1998 and Illinois in 1999.
- In 1998, Alabama and passed legislation creating a Head and Spinal Cord Injury Registry.
- In 1998, the West Virginia legislature appropriated state funding for I&R, case management and direct services, and in 1999, the Wyoming legislature appropriated state funding for residential services for persons with TBI, called the Visions Program, residing on campus of a state institution.

- In 1998, New Hampshire established a TBI/SCI advisory council by legislation, New Jersey established a council by Executive Order; and Maryland established a council that is appointed by the director of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

2000

- In 2000, both Florida and Nevada TBI programs received funding from their state's Tobacco Settlement for brain injury services.
- Mississippi, Wyoming (ABI waiver) and Indiana implemented Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waivers (2001); and Delaware (ABI), Nebraska, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Maryland followed in 2002.
- In 2001, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services received a state appropriation (general revenue) for TBI programs and services, prior to receiving a Medicaid ABI H&CB Waiver in 2002.
- In 2001, Texas became the first State to pass legislation that prohibited insurers from excluding cognitive rehabilitation, neuropsychological testing and other cognitive and behavior treatment for individuals with brain injury.
- In 2001, Utah Department of Health established an advisory council.
- In 2002, Colorado, Missouri, and New Jersey continued the trend of passing brain injury trust fund legislation, and Hawaii passed legislation creating a special fund.
- In 2002, New Hampshire legislature appropriated state funding (general revenue) for a statewide case management system.
- In 2002, the Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation established an advisory council.
- In 2003, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation establishing Resource Facilitation for Persons with Brain Injury as part of the Transportation Omnibus Bill based on the TBI Discharge Program model established under the TBI grant.
- In 2003, the North Carolina legislature passed legislation creating the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council and the bill was signed by the governor.
- In 2003, the Delaware governor signed legislation creating a distinct student disability classification of traumatic brain injury for statistical recording of special education students with TBI.
- In 2003, New Jersey legislators passed legislation that requires certain staff working with persons with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injury to call 911

emergency telephone service in life-threatening emergencies. The legislation is referred to as "Danielle's Law".

- In 2004, New Jersey Governor James McGreevey signed the "Brain Injury Research Act", which created a dedicated source of funding for medical research to treat individuals with traumatic brain injuries. The law requires a \$1 add-on to motor vehicle and traffic violations to support a nonlapsing fund for medical research grants. The bill established an 11-member commission to administer grants to approved research projects to study nerve regeneration, to encourage the development of brain injury research in the state and maintain a directory of brain injury research projects.
- In 2004, Connecticut Governor John Rowland signed legislation creating the "Brain Injury Prevention and Services Account" for purposes of providing grants to the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut. The law added a five dollar surcharge against any person convicted of speeding, reckless driving, or driving under the influence.
- In 2004, Louisiana Governor Blanco signed a house bill reinstating the universal motorcycle helmet law. The state had previously repealed its all-rider law.
- In 2005, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson signed legislation authorizing a Medicaid Home and Community-based waiver program for individuals with brain injuries with emphasis on long-term disability services. The legislation appropriates \$2 million dollars from the general fund to the Aging and Long-term Services Department for expenditure in fiscal years 2005 and 2006, in cooperation with the Human Services Department.
- In 2005, legislation passed in Virginia authorizing the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to license providers of services under the Medicaid Brain Injury Waiver and providers of residential services for persons with brain injury.
- In 2005, the Utah governor signed legislation adding and defining acquired brain injury as an eligible disability to receive services offered by the Division of Services for People with Disabilities. To receive services individuals must meet other criteria, such as the disability must be likely to continue indefinitely and result in a substantial functional limitation in three or more areas of major life activities.
- In 2005, Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher signed a bill that added brain injury to the list of disabilities eligible for services provided by the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.
- In 2005, Connecticut legislators passed a bill to establish statutorily the group home pilot program for older adults with acquired or traumatic brain injury. The

Commissioner of Public Health is to develop standards for operation of such residences and the training required of persons authorized under this section to administer medications in such residences.

- In 2005, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. signed legislation to establish a State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board.
- In 2005, the Nevada governor signed a bill authorizing the members of the Advisory Committee on Traumatic Brain Injuries to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for State employees.
- In 2005, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack signed legislation designating the Department of Public Health as the lead agency for brain injury.
- In 2005, Maine legislators passed a bill designating the Department of Health and Human Services as the official state agency responsible for programs for persons with acquired brain injury.
- In 2005, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux signed a bill that establishes authority for the Department of Social Services to license and to regulate facilities that serve adults with brain injury.
- In 2005, Colorado Governor Bill Owens signed legislation that extended the option of receiving home- and community-based services (HCBS) through the consumer-directed care service model to all Medicaid recipients who are enrolled in an HCBS waiver, including HCBS for persons with traumatic brain injury.
- In 2005, Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry signed legislation establishing the Self-Directed Care Act, providing persons with disabilities receiving home and community-based services the option to choose providers of services and to direct the delivery of services. The legislation also creates the Strategic Planning Committee on the Olmstead Decision.
- In 2005, Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell signed legislation which allowed the Commissioner of Social Services to amend the Medicaid HCBS waivers serving persons with acquired brain injury and persons with mental retardation to include persons eligible for or receiving medical assistance under the Medicaid for Employed Disabled (MED) to participate in these waiver programs. The MED program was authorized by The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, and allows persons with a disability to engage in employment without risking eligibility for needed medical services through the Medicaid program.
- In 2005, the Rhode Island legislature passed the “Health Care for Elderly and Disabled Residents Act”, which amended the State’s Title XIX (Medicaid) State plan to extend eligibility for categorically needy medical assistance coverage as permitted to individuals who are sixty-five (65) years or older and to individuals with disabilities.

The legislation also adds "persons with cognitive disabilities, such as brain injuries" as being eligible for several Medicaid State Plan services including community residence, day treatment program, and habilitation services.

The bill also authorized the Department of Human Services to plan and implement a system of health care delivery through a voluntary managed care health system in order to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to quality and affordable health care.

- In 2005, Montana Governor Judy Martz signed legislation that authorized the Department of Public Health and Human Services to apply for a federal Medicaid waiver that would enable it to expand HCBS to persons with disabilities, including individuals with brain injury 18 years of age and older, who are in need of habilitative and other specialized and supportive services to meet their needs of daily living and to maintain the persons in personal or other community-integrated residential situations.
- In 2005, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas signed legislation authorizing the Department of Aging and Independent Living to implement the Long-term care Medicaid 1115 Waiver applied for by the agency. The bill established policy for reassessment of entitlement to services by individuals currently receiving long-term care through the department, created appropriate waiting lists for services under the waiver and prioritized homemaker services to individuals who have high needs as defined under the waiver.
- In 2005, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services approved Vermont's Long-Term Care Plan, a section 1115 demonstration waiver, the first statewide initiative to rebalance long-term care services through managing nursing facility admissions and increasing community-based options. The pilot was to involve 4,500 Medicaid beneficiaries who are 65 or older or who have physical disabilities. The demonstration did not include children or individuals receiving institutional services through ICFs/MR (Intermediate Care Facilities for Mental Retardation).
- In 2005, the New Hampshire governor signed legislation mandating the use of bicycle helmets for children 16 years of age or younger.
- In 2005, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signed the "Shaken Baby Prevention Act to educate parents about the dangers of shaken baby syndrome and to provide alternative techniques to venting anger and frustration, including a support service for parents who struggle with infant crying, telephone consultation and referrals to appropriate professional assistance.
- In 2005, Missouri Governor Matt Blunt signed legislation that tightened eligibility requirements for the state Medicaid program and eliminated "optional services" for adults who are Medicaid eligible, including the comprehensive day rehabilitation program for individuals with traumatic brain injury.

- In 2005, Florida Governor Jeb Bush signed legislation allowing the state to submit a Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver proposal to implement Medicaid reforms on a pilot basis that would allow the state Medicaid agency to contract with HMO and non-HMO entities to serve Medicaid recipients in a capitated arrangement.
- In 2005, Vermont became the first state to receive federal approval for a long-term care plan, Choices for Care, to provide an entitlement to either nursing home care or HCBS for Medicaid-eligible persons.
- In 2006, the New Mexico Legislature passed "Money Follows the Person Act", allowing people with disabilities of all ages to choose community living.
- In 2006, New Hampshire Governor John Lynch signed legislation expanding the advisory council membership and duties.
- In 2006, Rhode Island Governor Donald L. Carcieri signed a house bill changing the composition of the permanent commission on traumatic brain injuries and identified the type of expenditures that can be paid by the TBI Program.
- In 2006, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., signed legislation amending the definition of a disability within the Services for People with Disabilities as it relates to a brain injury. The new law tailored major life activities to the needs of individuals with brain injury, rather than those defined for developmental disabilities.
- In 2006, Connecticut Governor M. Jodie Rell signed a senate bill requiring a study of state social services institutions and departments, and allows the establishment of a separate rate for a facility or a portion of a facility for traumatic brain injury patients who require extensive care, but not acute general hospital care.
- In 2006, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack signed legislation addressing quality standards for services and other supports available for person served by the Department of Human Services for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury.
- In 2006, the Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$1.16 million in new annual funding for brain injury services, which included direct case management in unserved/underserved regions of the Commonwealth.
- In 2006, the Missouri General Assembly appropriated \$765,000 in additional general revenue for FY 2007 to pay for comprehensive day rehabilitation services that were eliminated as a Medicaid State Plan service.
- In 2006, Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen signed legislation imposing an additional fine of \$15 to be deposited in the brain injury fund by drivers who leave the scene of an accident resulting in personal injury or death.

- In 2006, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich signed a house bill that adds individuals with brain injuries to the membership of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee.
- In 2006, as the result of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 that was signed by the President in February 2006, several states submitted or received approval for their 1115 Medicaid waivers restructuring their Medicaid programs (AK, HI, KY, VT, WV, ID).
- In 2006, Rhode Island passed legislation, the Long Term Care Services and Reform Act, which directed the Department of Human Services to implement a model system for integrated long-term care. The new law requires a unified long-term care budget with savings achieved by reducing nursing home days paid by Medicaid to be used to promote and strengthen community-based alternatives.
- In 2006, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) awarded eight states funding under the “Real Choice Systems Change Grants for Community Living” (CA, KS, MI, NJ, NY, NC, RI and VA).
- In 2006, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, New York Governor George Pataki, Rhode Island Governor Donald L. Carcieri and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney signed similar legislation regarding the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- In 2007, Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe signed legislation, which established a Legislative Committee on Brain Injury to study the rates and severity of traumatic brain injuries in Arkansas and to develop a strategic statewide plan to ensure an appropriately prepared workforce to treat individuals with traumatic brain injury and to provide for rehabilitation services.
- In 2007, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley signed legislation requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with certain stakeholders, to conduct a study and a comprehensive analysis of the options that may be available to increase access to long-term services, including HCBS, such as medical day care, for individuals who are at high risk of institutionalization because of cognitive impairments, mental illness, traumatic brain injury or other conditions.
- In 2007, Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal signed legislation that contains a provision for emergency services for developmental disabilities and adults with brain injuries eligible for HCBS Waiver services.
- In 2007, Indiana legislators passed an appropriations bill containing provisions to establish a spinal cord and brain injury fund, an advisory board and registry.
- In 2007, Washington Governor Chris Gregoire signed comprehensive legislation creating an advisory council, a funding source (trust fund) for services and the

development of a comprehensive statewide information and referral network for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, as well as the development of a statewide registry to collect data and for statewide planning.

- In 2007, Iowa became the first state to receive federal approval to add HCBS as a state Medicaid Plan service, as authorized by the DRA of 2005.
- In 2007, Maine Governor John Baldacci signed a senate bill establishing the Acquired Brain Injury Advisory Council to provide independent oversight and advice on issues related to brain injury, including prevention.
- In 2007, Texas Governor Rick Perry approved the budget for Health and Human Services Commission to include an Office of Brain Injury to house the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council and to provide a permanent resource that will more effectively serve persons with a traumatic brain injury and their families.
- In 2007, the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) received increased funding to reduce its waiting list for individuals seeking services from the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Service (CRS) program, which assists Texans with brain and spinal cord injuries. The CRS program funding has been increased by approximately \$3 million per year, making the overall funding a total of \$16 million for Fiscal Year 2008.
- In 2007, North Carolina Governor Mike Easley signed legislation authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate (\$20) for brain injury awareness. Money derived from the plate sales is to be transferred to the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina for support services to individuals with TBI.
- In 2007, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed a house bill creating demonstration grants for an integrated system of care for the Colorado mental health juvenile justice population with co-occurring disorders, which includes traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, developmental disabilities and fetal alcohol syndrome.
- In 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill requiring the Department of Health Care Services to submit a Medicaid HCBS waiver application to serve at least 100 adults with acquired traumatic brain injury, who otherwise would require care in a Medi-Cal funded facility including a nursing facility and an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities.
- In 2007, Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell signed a bill that would formally establish assisted living as a separate form of long-term care.
- In 2007, Maine Governor John Baldacci signed legislation to promote community integration for individuals with brain injuries by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to complete a comprehensive plan to address the needs.

- In 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill requiring a hospital to provide every patient anticipated to be in need of long-term care at the time of discharge with contact information for at least one public or nonprofit agency or organization dedicated to providing information or referral services relating to community-based long-term care options in the patient's county of residence and appropriate to the needs and characteristics of the patient.
- In 2007, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour signed legislation, which authorized the Division of Medicaid to transfer funds allocated for nursing facility services for eligible residents to cover the cost of services available through the independent living, traumatic brain injury/spinal cord injury, elderly and disabled and the assisted living waiver programs, when eligible residents choose those community services.
- In 2007, Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons signed legislation expanding the personal assistance program for persons with severe functional disabilities to include traumatic brain injury. In addition, the bill requires the Office of Disability Services to publish a single report concerning persons with disabilities, instead of separate reports for traumatic brain injury and other disabilities.
- In 2007, Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal signed a bill requiring a select committee on developmental programs to conduct a feasibility study on implementation of cost-based reimbursement mechanisms for adult, child and acquired brain injury programs administered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities.
- In 2007, Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri signed the Medical Assistance - Long-Term Care Service and Finance Reform bill requiring a unified long-term care budget to be combined in a single line-item appropriation within the Department of Human Services budget with regard to the annual Medicaid appropriations for nursing facility and community-based long-term care services for elderly sixty-five (65) years and older and younger persons at risk of nursing home admissions (including adult day care, home health, and personal care in assisted living settings). The total system savings attributable to the value of the reduction in nursing home

Beginning January 1, 2008, the allocation included, but not limited to, the establishment of presumptive eligibility criteria for the purposes of accessing home and community care.

- In 2007, New Hampshire Governor John Lynch signed legislation requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders.
- In 2007, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas signed a bill, requiring the Joint Legislative Corrections Oversight Committee to develop recommendations regarding the current and future needs of persons with mental illnesses who are or will be involved in the criminal justice or corrections systems. The bill authorizes the Committee to consider

whether “serious mental illness, “ as defined should be amended to include other mental impairments that significantly and negatively affect daily functioning, including all forms of developmental disabilities, mental retardation, traumatic brain injury, autism and various forms of dementia.

- In 2007, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed a senate bill expanding responsibilities of the Department of Education for identifying children with disabilities, “child find”, as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improve Act of 2004 (IDEA). Colorado includes brain injury in the definition of “specific learning disability.
- In 2007, North Dakota Governor John Hoeven signed legislation which added TBI to the list of disabilities under the categorical definition of students with a disability and also established a noncategorical delay eligibility criteria for a student who is at least three years of age, but less than ten years of age, who exhibit a developmental delay below that of same-age peers.
- In 2007, New Hampshire Governor John Lynch signed legislation establishing an executive planning commission on special education to develop a plan providing for an improved comprehensive, systemic and sustained approach for delivering student-specific and general technical assistance. The plan is also to address a regional model for addressing children with particularly low-incidence disabilities, which includes children with emotional disabilities, autism, multiple disabilities, traumatic or acquired brain injury, deafness, deaf-blindness, and blindness.
- In 2007, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed the Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act to expand health care for and to make health care more affordable for small businesses. The bill also increases access to Medicaid long-term care services, including HCBS for individuals who are Medicaid eligible and who need 24-hour supervision due to Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias, significant brain injury or serious mental illness.
- In 2007, Florida Governor Charlie Crist signed a bill requiring the state Medicaid agency for to implement federal waivers to administer integrated; fixed-payment delivery program for Medicaid recipients 60 years of age or older. Individuals who are 60 years of age or older or dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and enrolled in the TBI, consumer-directed care, family and supported-living waiver and other specified waiver programs are excluded from the integrated program established under the bill.
- In 2007, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed legislation adding and clarifying benefits related to treatment of an acquired brain injury required under a health benefit plan.
- In 2007 Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed legislation requiring helmets for motorcycle riders for persons under the age of 18. An additional \$10 surcharge for each violation is to be deposited in the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund. Colorado had not had helmet restrictions since 1977.

- In 2007, New Hampshire Governor John Lynch signed legislation establishing a commission to recommend a comprehensive program for increasing the use of passenger restraints in New Hampshire. New Hampshire is the only state to not have a seat belt law for adults.
- In 2007, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine signed a bill extending the timeframe from seven days to 30 days for hospitals to report to the Department of Rehabilitative Services any person sustaining brain or spinal cord injury.
- In 2007, Alabama Governor Bob R. Riley signed a bill to establish a statewide trauma system, a Statewide Trauma Advisory Council, a statewide trauma registry, regional trauma advisory councils and funding through the State Board of Health.
- In 2007, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed legislation relating to reintegration counseling services and related resources for servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, including the compilation of a directory of these resources to disseminate through the Texas Information and Referral Network (2-1-1).
- In 2007, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine signed legislation requiring state officials to study community-based care alternatives for the state's disabled veterans to avoid unnecessary placement in a nursing home or other long-term care facility.
- In 2007, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty approved \$80,000 for suicide prevention and psychological support for returning veterans.
- In 2007 Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty signed a bill requiring a study to make recommendations regarding conservatorship and guardianship. The study group, among other legal representatives, is to include advocates for people with a range of disabilities, including TBI.
- In 2007, Hawaii senators adopted a senate resolution calling for the Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate and apply for a Federal Medicaid TBI HCBS Waiver no later than December 31, 2008.
- In 2007, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed a house concurrent resolution urging members of Congress to support legislation for veterans' health care budget reform and sufficient funding.
- In 2007, Michigan representatives adopted a house resolution urging Congress to reestablish medical care for certain veterans whose income and disability status disqualified them for US Department of Veterans Affairs medical care as of January 17, 2003.
- In 2007, Alabama became the first state to receive federal approval to allow self-directed personal assistance services (PAS) as a feature of its Medicaid plan, eliminating the need for repeated applications for time-limited section 1115

demonstration programs or section 1915(c) waiver programs. This provision is allowed under Section 6087 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA).

- In 2008, Georgia senators adopted a senate resolution creating the Senate Study Committee on Brain Injury Related Neurobehavioral Issues.
- In 2008, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. signed legislation establishing outcome based supported employment system for integrated employment services for persons with disabilities that creates a reimbursement schedule for community centered boards and agencies that provide employment services to persons with developmental disabilities, mental disabilities and brain injuries.

NOTE: If you have further information regarding your state, please contact Susan Vaughn at slvaughn@nashia.org or call 573-636-6946.

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