



# Washington Update!

## National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Special Edition

March 2017

### In This Issue

[Administration Proposes Spending Cuts](#)

[House Pulls Health Reform Bill](#)

[CBITF Awareness Day Fair](#)

[CBITF Holds Briefing](#)

[Advocates Celebrate Awareness Day](#)

[ACL Holds Meeting on TBI State Grant Program](#)



### Legislative Update

#### President Proposes Spending Cuts for This Year

*For the remaining fiscal year, the Administration has proposed a spending cut of more than 18 billion a cross more 20 federal departments, including \$1.2 billion to National Institutes of Health (NIH).*

The proposed NIH cut is one of the three largest reductions to individual agencies proposed in the document sent to appropriators on Friday.

Reportedly, House appropriators have said that it's too late for the Administration to request drastic cuts to agencies this year.

The Trump Administration also proposes funding cuts in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs.

#### Dear NASHIA Member,

Last Wednesday, March 22nd, the National Association of State Head Injury Association (NASHIA) joined the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) and TBI advocates in promoting brain injury awareness on Capitol Hill. The CBITF, Co-chaired by Congressmen Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and Tom Rooney (R-FL), sponsored the Brain Injury Awareness Day comprised of a Fair, Briefing and Reception.

Prior to the Awareness Day, NASHIA members participated in a meeting hosted by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to learn more about the ACL programs and to begin discussion on the future of the Federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Implementation Grant Program. The next day, during the Fair, State grantees and unfunded States participated in a dialogue on outcome measures for the program.

### CBITF Fair Offers Opportunity to Network

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force Awareness Day began with a Fair featuring national and federal organizations and agencies involved in brain injury research, prevention, rehabilitation and service delivery.



NASHIA joined other civilian and military organizations in exhibiting information and materials in the Rayburn House Office Building, 1st Floor Foyer. Congressional staffers and others interested in brain injury had the opportunity, then, to learn more about brain injury and what organizations and agencies do.



NASHIA Executive Director (l) Lorraine Wargo, RN, and Susan Vaughn, Director of Public Policy "person" the NASHIA table.

including injury control research and public health preparedness and response grants.

### House Pulls Health Care Bill

Last Friday, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan pulled the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which would have repealed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

In an effort to pass the bill, leadership offered to delete the Essential Health Care Benefits package required in the private market.

The bill also called for the transfer of the Medicaid program to the States, changing the program from an entitlement program to a block grant or per capita caps, allowing States to choose. It was estimated that 24 million more people under the age of 65 would be uninsured by 2026, should the bill have been enacted.

### Trump Sends Message on Brain Injury Awareness Month

Late Wed. afternoon, President Donald Trump sent a message to the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) Co-chair Tom Rooney (R-FL) commending the Task Force efforts to promote awareness.

The message was sent to coincide with the CBITF Awareness Day's events. Click [here](#) to read the message.

### NASHIA Members Visit Lawmakers

A number of NASHIA members and advocates visited with their U.S. Representative and Senators to advocate for TBI funding. In the House, advocates asked their Representative to support a sign on letter circulated by CBITF Co-chairs Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. and Tom Rooney to support TBI funding.



Stefani O'Dea, President of NASHIA visiting with her Maryland peeps.

Pictured below left are Dave Johnson, Cong. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ); Susan Vaughn and Rebeckah Wolfkiel, NASHIA Public Policy Staff. Below right is Janice White, Neuro Community Care.



### CBITF Holds Briefing on Brain Injury

The Fair was followed by the Briefing, "Faces of Brain Injury: The Invisible Disability Affecting Children and Adults," featuring a panel moderated by **William A.B. Ditto**, NASHIA Chair of Public Policy, (pictured right) following introductory remarks by Cong. Pascrell. Panel members spoke to the needs of children and adults with TBI. Regardless of the age or cause of injury, the panelists explained that individuals may experience resulting problems which may change over time.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Injury Center announced its first-ever mobile game app called *Rocket Blades* on concussion safety for children aged 6 to 8. Speaking on behalf of the CDC was **Grant Baldwin, PhD, MPH**, Director of the Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention. Other panelists were: **Olivia Lang**, Leesburg, VA; **James David Toews**, Acting Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living; Navy Capt. (**Dr.**) **Mike Colston**, Director, Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury; and **Anastasia B. Edmonston**, MS CRC, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



Missouri delegation Dean Anderson, far left, and Susan Vaughn, second from right meet with Cong. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), along with Rebeccah Wolfkiel, far right.

### NASHIA Members Network



Maria Crowley (AL) and Lorraine Wargo, RN.



Left to right: Keri Bennett (NE), Judy Dettmer (CO) and Nicole Adams (PA).

### A Special Thanks to CBITF Awareness Day Reception Sponsors



### Friends of Model Systems

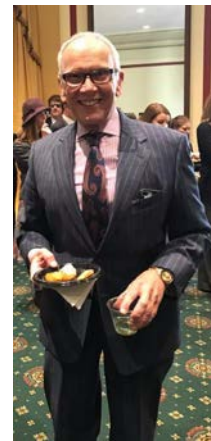


### Advocates Celebrate Awareness Day

The day capped off with a reception celebrating Awareness Day. In between, advocates met with their Representatives and Senators to explain brain injury, service needs in their States, and the need for continued funding through the TBI Act programs.



Cong. Tim Murphy (R-PA), middle, is flanked by Amy Colberg, BIAA (I) and Rebeccah Wolfkiel, NASHIA Governmental Relations, who is on his right.



Curt Decker, JD, NDRN Executive Director



Above, Karen Brown and Anne McDonnell, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, welcome the opportunity for a little food and relaxation after pounding the halls. Dr. Sidney Hinds, U.S. Army, holds the attention of Rebeccah Wolfkiel, Thom Campbell and Drew Nagele.



### NASHIA Members Attend ACL Meeting

Prior to the Awareness Day, NASHIA and other TBI stakeholders attended a meeting held by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Bob Williams, Acting Commissioner of the Administration for Disabilities and Director of the Independent Living Administration, picture below left, welcomed the attendees to the meeting and the TBI

Neuro  
Community Care



UNITED STATES  
Brain Injury  
Alliance

State grantees to the ACL. Thom Campbell, Independent Living Administration, pictured below right, fielded questions with regard to the future of the program -- how it should look, what should the outcomes be. Stefani O'Dea, MD, led a panel discussion on consumer engagement.



This Special Edition was prepared by:

**Susan L. Vaughn**

Director of Public Policy

email: [publicpolicy@nashia.org](mailto:publicpolicy@nashia.org)

**William A.B. Ditto, MSW**

Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee

email: [WilliamABDitto@aol.com](mailto:WilliamABDitto@aol.com)

**Rebecca Wolfkiel**

NASHIA Governmental Relations

email:

[rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com](mailto:rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com)



For more information on NASHIA's public policy priorities, visit: [www.nashia.org](http://www.nashia.org)

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