



Washington Update!

Special Edition!

June 26, 2014

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Legislative Update



Senate Passes WIOA

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA), H.R. 803. This bill reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act and makes other changes pertaining to the Rehab Act.

Among other provisions, the bill transfers the Independent Living program and NIDRR from the Department of Education to the Administration on Community Living (ACL) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The measure now heads for the House, where it is expected to pass.

Dear Susan,

On Tuesday, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to **pass H.R. 1098, TBI Act Reauthorization**. The next day, NASHIA participated in a staff briefing on sports-related TBI and aging issues. NASHIA also co-sponsored a briefing organized by Safe Kids Worldwide, in cooperation with the co-chairs of the Congressional Kids Safety Caucus, on sports related injuries.

Since the end of May, there have been several key deliberations impacting brain injury public policy. On May 29th, the President hosted the White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit. Read further to learn of these key issues being addressed by federal policymakers.

House Passes TBI Act Unanimously!

On Tuesday, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously **passed H.R. 1098, The Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2013**, introduced by U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), founder and co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF), that would provide federal resources supporting individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The legislation, which was co-sponsored by CBITF Co-chair, Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL), passed by voice vote.

In a press release, "I'm thrilled to see this critical legislation pass the House with overwhelming bipartisan support," said Rep. Pascrell. "Reports from the battlefield to local athletic fields show that traumatic brain injuries are a growing epidemic across our nation. This legislation will provide vital resources to programs that support folks living with this devastating injury while making key investments in education and research around TBI prevention.

Additionally, this legislation elevates the TBI program within the Department of Health and Human Services to allow the program to adapt based on the needs of TBI survivors and to allow for better coordination among federal agencies. I remain committed, just as I

House Passes DoD TBI Amendment

On May 22, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment authored by U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) that would direct the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct a study on blast injury mechanics impacting soldiers on the battlefield. Rep. Pascrell's amendment was included in National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (H.R. 4435), which passed with a vote of 325-98.

President Convenes Concussion Summit

On May 29th, President Obama hosted the White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit to advance research on sports-related youth concussions and raise awareness of steps to prevent, identify and respond to concussions in young people. Below is a brief overview of some of the programs identified by the Administration.

The **NCAA** and the **Department of Defense** are jointly launching a \$30 million effort to fund the most comprehensive clinical study of concussion and head impact exposure ever conducted and to issue an Educational Grand Challenge aimed at improving concussion safety behaviors in college sports and the military.

The **National Institutes of Health** is launching a new longitudinal research effort to detect, characterize, and measure the chronic effects of repetitive concussions to inform clinical trials aimed at preventing or slowing disease progression in the future, supported by the **Foundation for the National Institutes of Health**, starting with an initial investment of

have for the past 12 years, to making TBI treatment and prevention a priority in order to protect our soldiers and our athletes alike. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to now take action in order to help protect Americans from the effects of this silent epidemic."

"Tens of thousands of our nation's troops and veterans suffer from traumatic brain injury," said Rep. Rooney. "As our war fighters return home, we have an obligation to make sure they get the treatment they need - and to do all we can to prevent future brain injuries from occurring in the first place. Passing the TBI Act will help improve our ability to prevent, detect and treat brain injuries for all Americans, but particularly our troops and veterans. I appreciate Rep. Pascrell's longstanding efforts and leadership on combating brain injuries, and I'm honored to work with him to advance this bipartisan cause."

Founded by Rep. Pascrell in 2001, the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force's mission is to further provide education and awareness of brain injury (incidence, prevalence, prevention and treatment) and support funding for basic and applied research on brain injury rehabilitation and development of a cure. The Task Force is bipartisan and made up of over one hundred members of Congress.

Congress Focuses on Sports-Related Concussions

Senate Special Committee on Aging Focuses on Sports-Related Injuries and Aging



On Wednesday, William (Bill) A.B. Ditto, Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, participated in a Legislative Briefing on "Sports-Related Head Injuries & Concussion" convened by the Senate Special Committee on Aging and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. Bill addressed the long-term issues associated with brain injury and the role states play in providing long-term services and supports.

Other participants were **Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)**, **Grant Baldwin, PhD, MPH**, Director of the Unintentional Injury Prevention of the CDC's National Injury Center; **Kevin Turner**, former NFL player; and **Jeff Cummings, MD**, Director, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. **Joseph Cammarata**, Founder and President, Brain Injury Association of Washington, DC, was moderator.

The briefing was held prior to the Senate Special Committee on Aging's hearing on "State of Play: Brain Injuries and Diseases of Aging". Witnesses for the Senate hearing were:

-- **Robert Stern, PhD**, Boston University School of Medicine's Alzheimer's Disease Center;

-- **Jacob VanLandingham, PhD**, Director Of Neurobiological Research,

\$16 million from its first Sports Health Program partner, **the National Football League**.

The **National Institute of Standards and Technology** will invest \$5 million over five years as part of the Materials Genome Initiative, to work on tools to accelerate the development of advanced materials that can provide better protection against concussions for the athlete, the warrior and others.

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** will promote the use of its new Heads Up to Parents app to help parents learn how to spot concussion symptoms and what to do if they think their child or teen has a concussion.

The NFL is committing \$25 million over the next three years to support projects and partnerships aimed at promoting youth sports safety, including new pilot programs to expand access to athletic trainers in schools to hold information sessions across the country to educate parents about sports safety.

The **UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program**, with a \$10 million investment from Steve Tisch, UCLA's Departments of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics will launch the Program to target sports concussion prevention, outreach, research and treatment for athletes of all ages, especially youth.

Pop Warner Little Scholars will participate this season in a research project which tracks concussions and concussion trends in high school sports.

The **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia** will start a comprehensive pediatric and adolescent concussion registry to

Professor, Florida State University College Of Medicine;

-- **Ben Utecht**, Former National Football League Tight End, Cincinnati Bengals And Indianapolis Colts; and

-- **Chris Nowinski**, Former Professional Wrestler, World Wrestling Entertainment, And Founding Executive Director Sports Legacy Institute. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) is the Committee Chair and Senator Susan M. Collins (D-ME) is Ranking Member.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 1.6 to 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related TBIs occur in the United States each year. Research into the potential link between TBI and brain damage due specifically to sports-related injuries and neurological diseases is increasing, with a number of studies supporting some association between the two.

While researchers don't understand fully the extent of the relationship between TBI and diseases such as Alzheimer's yet, a growing body of evidence suggests that one complication of repetitive TBI is the later development of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) or possibly Alzheimer's disease.



Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus Holds Briefing on Sports Safety

On Wednesday afternoon, Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Co-Chair of the Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus, convened the briefing, "Tackling Sports Injuries in Young Athletes: On the Field, In Emergency Rooms and in the Home District", held in the Longworth House Office Building. The briefing was sponsored by the Caucus and Safe Kids Worldwide. Presenters included:

- **Coach Jack Crowe**, Former Jacksonville State University head football coach and Executive Director of the American Sports Medicine Institute
- **Christina Johns, MD**, Emergency Medicine and Trauma Services, Children's National Medical Center
- **Stephen G. Rice, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP**; Director of Pediatric Sports Medicine, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, New Jersey
- **Christina Benson, MS, ATC**, Head Athletic Trainer
- Moderated by **Mark Hyman**, author of three books on sports safety including "Concussions and Our Kids" with Dr. Robert Cantu, former



enable CHOP researchers to assess data for children with concussions to improve understanding of concussions and their impact on child health.

Safe Kids Worldwide, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, will host more than 200 sports safety and concussion clinics for parents, coaches and young athletes across the country, and will release a research report this summer providing updated insights into the culture of youth sports today.

The **Brain Injury Association of America** in collaboration with **SAP** will build an online application to help students, parents and educators better understand when to return to class after a concussion.

USA Cheer and its partners will roll-out a new Head Injury Protocol to over 300,000 cheerleaders and their coaches this summer at clinics to teach coaches and cheerleaders how to prevent, identify and seek treatment for any suspected head injuries.

U.S. Soccer is establishing a Chief Medical Officer position to interface with the medical community and experts in the field of concussion management and prevention.

The **National Federation of State High School Associations** will host a concussion summit this year focused on promoting best practices to minimize injury risks in high school athletes.

Several organizations co-sponsored the event including Safe States Alliance, NASHIA, BIAA, American Academy of Pediatrics, Children's National Medical Center, Children's Hospital Association, National Athletic Trainers' Association, American College of Preventive Medicine, MomsTEAM Institute, and National Council on Youth Sports Safety.

Senate Holds Hearing on Inclusion

On June 24th, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, chaired by Senator Tom Harkin, (D-IA) held a roundtable titled "Moving Toward Greater Community Inclusion: Olmstead at 15." In his opening statement, Senator Harkin said states were spending over 75% on institutional care. He announced his plans to introduce the **Community Integration Act** to ensure that people with disabilities can choose to live in the community and receive the same supports and services they would receive in institutional settings. Individuals with disabilities spoke about how their lives have changed as the result of living and working in the community in lieu of institutions and nursing homes. Click [here](#) to view the roundtable discussion.

For further information on NASHIA public policy go to www.nashia.org

or contact

Susan Vaughn at publicpolicy@nashia.org

Save the Date!

**25th Annual State of the States
in Brain Injury**

***Invention, Innovation and Interventions in
Brain Injury***

October 27th - 30th, 2014

Marriott Courtyard
21 N. Juniper Street
Philadelphia, PA

visit: <http://www.nashia.org/SOS2014.asp>

This Special Edition of Washington Update was prepared by:

Susan L. Vaughn

Director of Public Policy, publicpolicy@nashia.org

William A.B. Ditto, MSW, is

Chair of the NASHIA Public Policy Committee, WilliamABDitto@aol.com

Rebecca Wolfkiel

NASHIA Governmental Relations Consultant, rwolfkiel@ridgepolicygroup.com

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

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