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Each year in the United States, an estimated 1.4 million people sustain a TBI.

Each year in the United States, an estimated 80,000 to 90,000 people experience the onset of long-term disability associated with a TBI.

Direct medical costs and indirect costs (such as lost productivity) of TBI totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the United States in 2000.

Traumatic Brain Injury Act Appropriations

TBI Act Appropriations

Since 1997, Congress has appropriated funding to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and Health Resources and Services Administration to carry out the intent of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. President Bush's Fiscal Year 2007 budget contains no funding for HRSA TBI Programs and reduces funding for CDC TBI Programs.

The Brain Injury Association of America urges Congress to restore and fully fund programs authorized under the TBI Act in FY 2007 as follows:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Stakeholder Request: \$9 million

Since the law's enactment, the CDC has calculated and disseminated the national incidence and prevalence of TBI, identified ways to assess problems that result from concussion and other so-called mild traumatic brain injuries, published tool kits for physicians and coaches, and circulated concussion information for individuals and families.

The CDC has documented disability and other outcomes of TBI, including the need for services, and studied methods for obtaining outcome data and information about children with TBI. Currently the CDC is pilot-testing the development of a National Brain Injury Information Center (NBIIC) that connects callers to local sources of help. The CDC has frequently reported to Congress on its activities and widely circulated its research findings.

With an appropriation of \$9 million in FY 2007, CDC would continue its current projects; strengthen support for State and local efforts to collect data on TBI; improve State and national efforts to link persons with TBI to services; expand education and awareness efforts; and conduct public health research related to TBI.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) State Grant Program Stakeholder Request: \$15 million

TBI places demands on State service systems that are already over extended. Increased funding is necessary to assist all States, Territories, the American Indian Consortium, and the District of Columbia in improving and maximizing resources to better serve individuals with TBI and their families on a continuing basis.

Established in 1997, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) TBI Program is the only federal program assisting States to better serve individuals with brain injury.

Through the HRSA TBI Program, grants are awarded to help States establish advisory boards and designate lead agencies; assess needs; identify gaps in service delivery; and develop plans for meeting needs. In some States, grants have been used to expand service systems to include children, victims of domestic violence, minority and other underserved populations through faith-based initiatives; for transitioning services; to train and educate individuals, families and professionals; and for case management, family mentoring and other support services.

Funding through this program has been the impetus for States to seek or leverage funding from other sources to further the goal of maximizing resources in order for individuals with traumatic brain injury to obtain the necessary rehabilitation and community supports to return to home, school, and community thereby avoiding unnecessary institutionalization.

The strength of the HRSA State Grant program has been the flexibility for States and Territories to use funding to address their specific needs. Without this funding, however, the progress made to date will be jeopardized, thereby diminishing the Federal investment made during the last 9 years and severely limiting States' abilities to continue to address the complex needs of individuals with traumatic brain injury.

HRSA also provides technical assistance, information, and training on the "State of the Art" methods in service delivery through contracts with national organizations to further assist States, Territories and protection and advocacy systems. HRSA's program reaches out to other federal agencies as well as private and public organizations, to promote awareness, maximize resources, and address emerging issues.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Protection & Advocacy Grant Program
Stakeholder Request: \$6 million**

The TBI Protection & Advocacy Grant Program ensures that each state has some level of staff time and resource to help individuals with traumatic brain injury in exercising their rights on issues such as abuse, neglect, guardianship, criminal justice, employment, healthcare, transitioning out of nursing homes, and helping individuals receive an appropriate education according to their individual needs.

A \$6 million appropriation in FY 07 would allow allotments to all States and ensure that each state can provide a significant program of brain injury protection and advocacy with an appropriate level of staff time and expertise.

Recommendations:

The Brain Injury Association of America strongly urges Congress to restore and increase funding for the HRSA and CDC to:

- * Continue and expand State and national capabilities for data collection on TBI,
- * Link families and individuals with traumatic brain injury to resources and services in a timely fashion,
- * Expand public awareness and knowledge of traumatic brain injury,
- * Continue valuable research to improve rehabilitation outcomes,
- * Continue and expand funding to States to improve service delivery,
- * Continue and expand funding to Protection & Advocacy Systems to inform, refer and assist individuals with traumatic brain injury with self-advocacy.

For more information about brain injury rehabilitation, treatment, community and support services, visit the Brain Injury Association of America's website at www.biausa.org or call 1-800-444-6443.

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