

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Become an original cosponsor of
THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACT



Dear Colleague:

We invite you to become an original cosponsor of the only federal legislation that specifically addresses issues faced by the 5.3 million Americans who currently suffer from a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). As you may know, TBI is among the leading causes of death and disability in young Americans. Each year, 1.4 million Americans experience a brain injury, costing over \$60 billion annually.

Originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized as part of the Children's Health Act in 2000, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act offers balanced and coordinated public policy in brain injury prevention, education, research, and community-based services for individuals living with a TBI and their families. Specifically, the TBI Act:

- Directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify strategies to prevent TBI, as well as increase awareness and understanding of TBI by implementing public education programs
- Directs the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to make grants to states to coordinate, expand, and enhance service delivery systems
- Directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct basic and applied research in TBI

The reauthorization of the TBI Act would not only continue funding to states but would strengthen the language to align the law with the President's *New Freedom Initiatives*, which aim to remove barriers to community living for people living with disabilities and long-term illnesses. While needed research is ongoing, many clinical advances have been made. It is now time to apply the research to the treatment of TBI patients. The reauthorization of the TBI Act would improve the original law by: coordinating national efforts related to TBI; authorizing research to improve acute care injury management; and maximizing research to improve evidence-based practices in TBI diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

For more information, or if you would like to become an original cosponsor of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2006, please contact Becky Braunstein with Congressman Platts, at 5-5836 or Charla Penn McManus with Congressman Pascrell's office, at 5-5715.

Sincerely,

Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress