

November 5, 2013

The Honorable Bob P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey and Senator Hatch:

The undersigned national organizations involved in injury and violence prevention urge you to introduce the reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act of 1996, as amended, which would reauthorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct brain injury surveillance, prevention, public education and awareness, in addition to reauthorizing funding for research conducted by the National Institutes of Health and to improve service delivery and access through state and protection and advocacy grant programs.

Known as the “silent epidemic”, TBI remains a leading cause of death and disability in both adults and youth. CDC’s research and programs work to prevent TBI and help people better recognize, respond, and recover if a TBI occurs. Primary funding to address this growing population is provided through CDC’s Injury Center which has designated TBI as one of the four focus areas along with motor vehicle-related injuries; violence against children and youth; and prescription painkiller overdoses. The Center determines incidence and prevalence of TBI-related disabilities, including military-related TBIs; methods for determining mild TBI; and conducts public education and prevention activities to reduce falls-related TBIs among the elderly, concussions relating to sports, and brain injury as the result of shaken baby syndrome.

Reauthorizing TBI legislation is critical to keep these and other targeted national and state efforts in place in order to reduce the undue burden of TBI-related disabilities on families, caretakers and society as a whole. We strongly support this important legislation and look forward to the legislation being introduced.

Sincerely,

American Physical Therapy Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Psychological Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Council on Aging (NCOA)
Safe Kids
Safe States Alliance

cc: Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman, Senate HELP Committee
Senator Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee