

National Organizations for Injury and Violence Prevention

November 18, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States Congress
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States Congress
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

The undersigned national organizations involved in injury and violence prevention urge you to support H.R. 1098, Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2013, which would reauthorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct brain injury surveillance, prevention, public education and awareness; 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.

TBI remains a leading cause of death and disability in both adults and youth and is one of the signature injuries of returning services members and veterans. CDC's research and TBI 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, which has been critical for states and other entities to address the serious public health issue.

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