

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Labor, HHS, Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
House Labor, HHS, Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

The undersigned members of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, and other Members of Congress, respectfully request your support for \$37 million for FY 2010 to fund the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs authorized by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act Amendments of 2008. We also request \$13.3 million for the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) TBI Model Systems administered by the Department of Education.

Known as the “silent epidemic,” TBI continues to be the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and incidence is increasing here at home among our nation’s civilian population. From the battlefield to the football field, TBI remains a leading cause of death and disability in both adults and youth. Primary funding to address this growing population is provided through these programs.

Further, many of men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with this “signature injury” go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Subsequently, these military members and their families—and particularly those in the National Guard and the Reserve—look to community and local resources for information to better understand symptoms, long-term consequences, and potential treatments. Now more than ever, it is important provide adequate investments in these vital programs.

Therefore, we request funding for TBI-related programs in the amount of:

- **\$11 million** for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TBI Registries, Surveillance, Prevention, and National Public Education and Awareness;
- **\$20 million** for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI State Grant Program;
- **\$6 million** for the HRSA Federal TBI Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Systems Grant Program; and
- **\$13.3 million** for the NIDRR TBI Model Systems of Care Program.

We specifically ask for additional funding for the HRSA Federal TBI State Grant Program due to recent changes in the awarding of grants. Beginning in FY 2009, HRSA increased each grant award from \$118,000 to \$250,000 resulting in a reduction in the number of state grant awards to 15. This means that many States that had participated in the program in past years have now been forced to close their operations, leaving many unable to access brain injury care. Increasing the program to \$20 million will provide funding necessary for each State, the District of Columbia, and the American Indian Consortium to sustain and expand State service delivery.

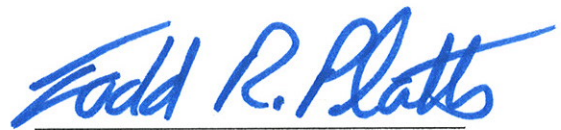
Furthermore, enhanced funding for the NIDRR TBI Model Systems of Care will add four new centers and two collaborative research projects. These investments will ensure that this valuable TBI research capacity is not diminished. The TBI Model Systems of Care represent a vital national network of expertise and research in the field of TBI. In addition, given the national importance of this research program, the TBI Model Systems of Care should receive line-item status within the broader NIDRR budget.

We ask that you consider favorably these requests for the programs authorized under the TBI Act and for the NIDRR TBI Model Systems of Care.

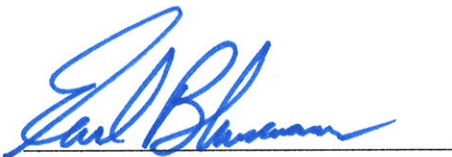
Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



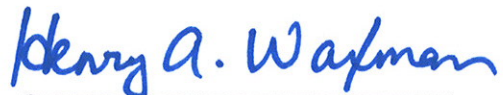
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



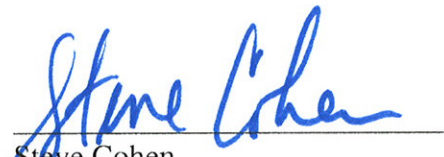
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



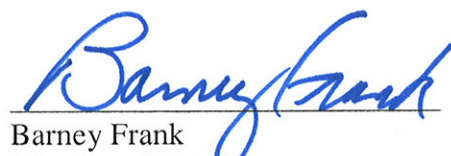
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



Member of Congress



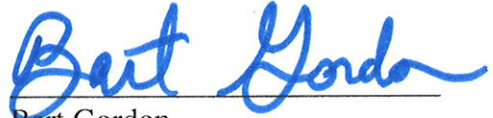
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



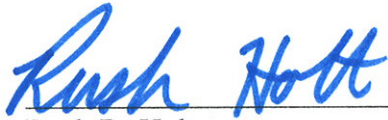
Phil Hare
Member of Congress



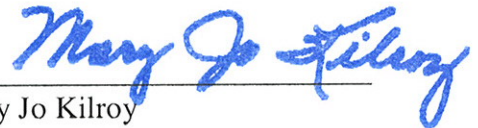
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



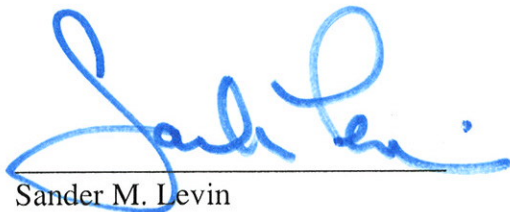
Paul W. Hodes
Member of Congress



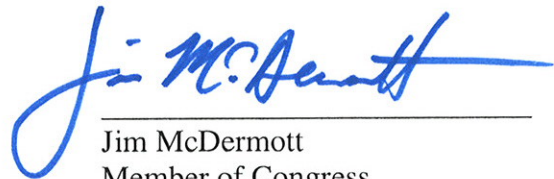
Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



Mary Jo Kilroy
Member of Congress



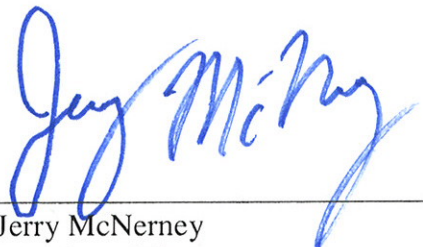
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



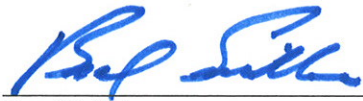
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



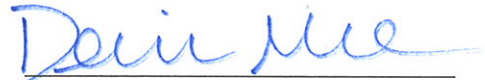
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



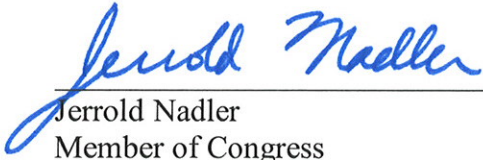
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



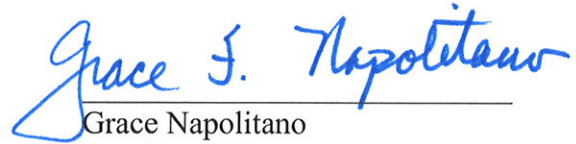
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



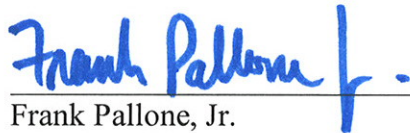
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



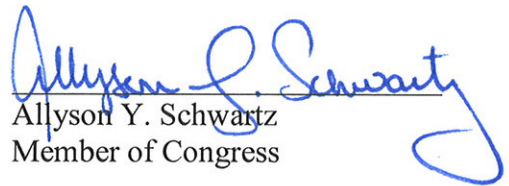
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



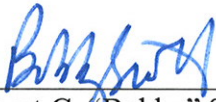
Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



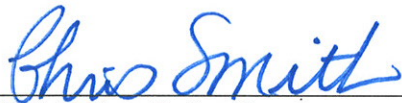
Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



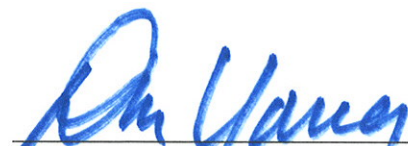
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



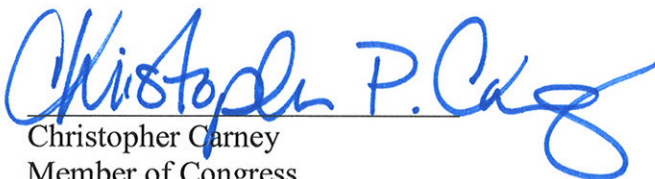
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Christopher Carney
Member of Congress

Candice S. Miller

Candice Miller
Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee

Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey

Member of Congress

Jim Langevin

Member of Congress

Ellen Tauscher

Member of Congress