

**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:

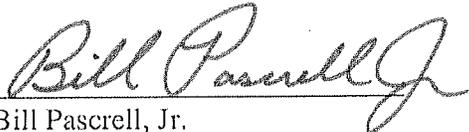
- **\$11 million** for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TBI Registries, Surveillance, Prevention, and National Public Education and Awareness;
- **\$20 million** for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI State Grant Program;
- **\$6 million** for the 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



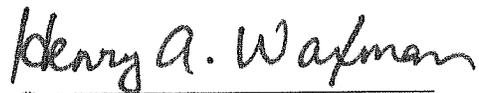
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



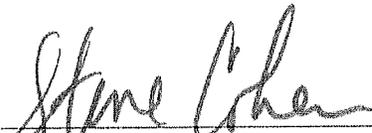
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



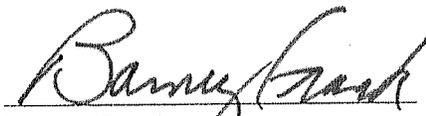
Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress



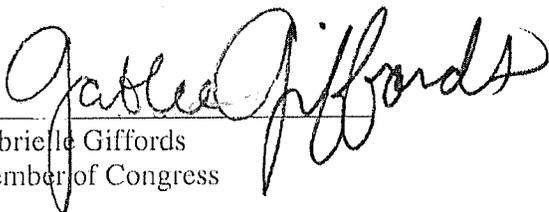
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



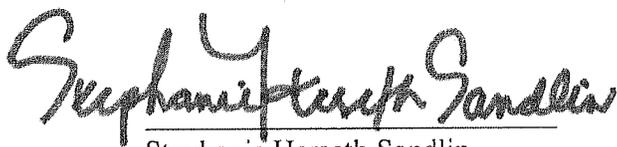
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

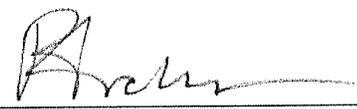
  
Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress

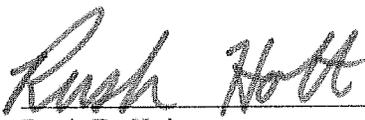
  
Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress

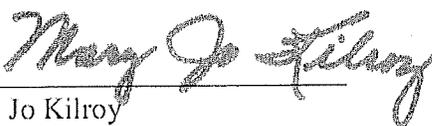
  
Gene Green  
Member of Congress

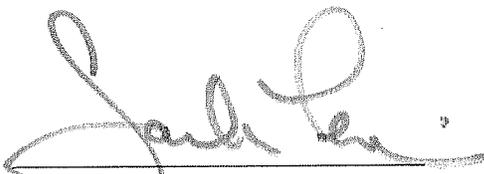
  
Phil Hare  
Member of Congress

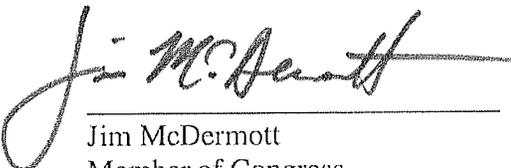
  
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
Member of Congress

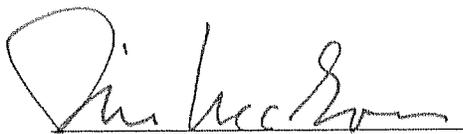
  
Paul W. Hodes  
Member of Congress

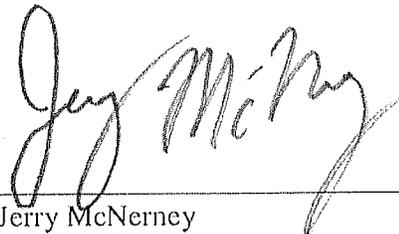
  
Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress

  
Mary Jo Kilroy  
Member of Congress

  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

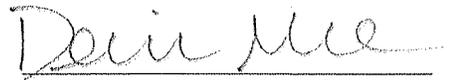
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

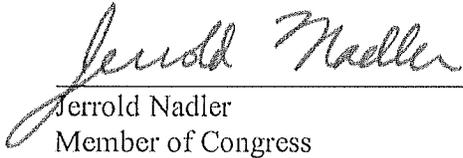
  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



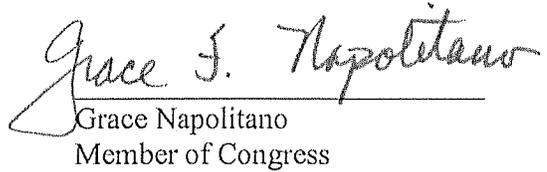
Brad Miller  
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



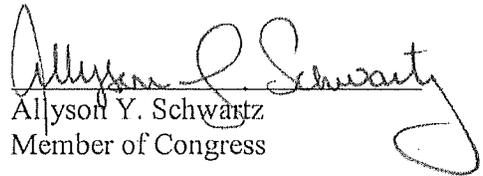
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



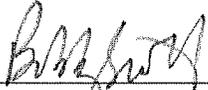
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress



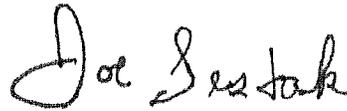
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress



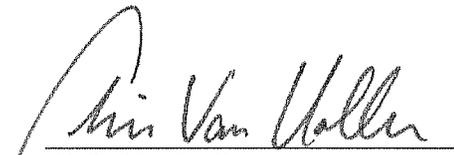
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



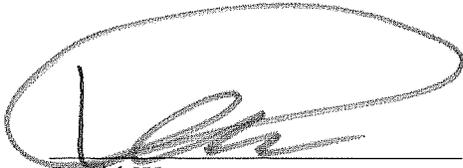
Joe Sestak  
Member of Congress



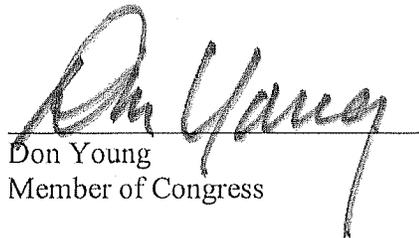
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



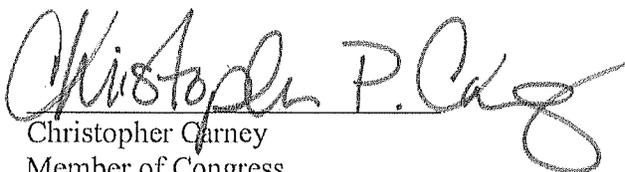
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



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

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey

Member of Congress

Jim Langevin

Member of Congress

Ellen Stauscher

Member of Congress