



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

September 14, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you consider appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the undersigned organizations request that you appropriate \$5 million to fund the National Concussion Surveillance System, authorized by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Pub. Law 115-377). This provision also keeps with the recommendations of the Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth; the Institute of Medicine (IOM); National Research Council's report, which call for CDC to establish and oversee a national surveillance system to accurately determine the incidence of sports-related concussions, including those in youth ages 5 to 21. This recommendation came about as the Committee concluded that there is currently insufficient data to accurately estimate the incidence of sports-related concussions in youth and in subpopulations of youth.

While the IOM report focused on the need for data relating to sports-related concussions, data is needed to capture all incidences of concussions that may be due to falls, work related injuries, domestic violence, and recreational injuries. In its 2014 report, "Surveillance Report of Traumatic Brain Injury-related Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths," the CDC found that falls were the leading cause of injury for TBI-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in 2014, and over half of TBIs attributed to falls were in the youngest (0-4 years) and oldest (≥ 75 years) age groups, suggesting a need to intensify efforts related to fall prevention, particularly in these age groups.

Therefore, we ask that you fund the National Concussion Surveillance Systems to capture the extent of concussions in the United States, to identify populations at risk necessary to determine federal programmatic priorities, support and evaluate prevention activities and efforts, and to assist States in planning for ongoing follow up and treatment as the result concussion-related disabilities.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPMR)
American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)
American Brain Coalition (ABC)
American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM)

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
American Trauma Society (ATS)
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN)
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado
Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa
Brain Injury Alliance of Washington
Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)
Brain Injury Association of Maryland
Concussion Game Plan
Concussion Legacy Foundation
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Dallas C. Hack MD, MPH
Friends of TBI Model System
Gerard A. Gioia, PhD, Chief, Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology, Director, Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program, Children's National Hospital, Professor, Depts. of Pediatrics and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences George Washington University School of Medicine
Julianne Schmidt, PhD, ATC, Associate Professor, Co-director, UGA Concussion Research Laboratory, Co-director, Biomechanics Laboratory, Department of Kinesiology, The University of Georgia
Mark Rosenberg, Founding Director, NCIPC
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS)
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA)
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)
National Safety Council (NSC)
North American Brain Injury Society
PINK Concussions
Pop Warner Little Scholars
Safe States Alliance
Samuel R. Browd, M.D., Ph.D., FACS, FAANS, FAAP, Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington Attending Pediatric Neurosurgeon, Seattle Children's Hospital
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Sharon Nieb, PhD, MSW, Program Director Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory Department of Emergency Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
The Center on Brain Injury Research & Training (CBIRT)
The National Concussion Management Center
United States Brain Injury Alliance (USBIA)
US Lacrosse
USA Field Hockey