



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** BIAA Board of Directors  
Chartered State Affiliates  
Business & Professional Council

**FROM:** Susan Connors, President/CEO

**DATE:** August 4, 2008

**RE:** Cognitive Rehabilitation for Wounded Warriors

I am thrilled to announce that earlier today a group of United States Senators, led by Evan Bayh (D-IN) and Barack Obama (D-IL), sent a letter to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates calling on him to enact official coverage of cognitive rehabilitation within the military's TRICARE health insurance program.

The Brain Injury Association of America worked closely with Senator Bayh's office to initiate the development of this letter and to urge the support of ten highly esteemed Senators who signed on in support of this important effort to increase access to timely, state-of-the-art care for returning servicemembers with traumatic brain injury. A copy of the letter is available from BIAA's website at [www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org), along with talking points in support of TRICARE coverage of cognitive rehabilitation and a summary of the efficacy evidence. Additionally, on our website you will find BIAA's position statement, *Cognitive Rehabilitation: The Evidence, Funding and Case for Advocacy*, published in December 2006.

BIAA thanks Senators Bayh and Obama for their leadership on this issue and looks forward to continuing to work with Congress and the Department of Defense to make TRICARE coverage of cognitive rehabilitation a reality. We gratefully acknowledge the members of its Federal Legislative Advisory Committee who dedicated their time and expertise on behalf of this effort: Drs. Mark Ashley, Wayne Gordon, Debbie McMorrow, Greg O'Shanick, Jim Schraa, and Tina Trudel.

In addition, BIAA expresses special appreciation to Drs. Keith Cicerone and Wayne Gordon for assistance in identifying the evidence supporting cognitive rehabilitation and to the cognitive rehabilitation task force of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's Brain Injury

Interdisciplinary Special Interest Group. Last, but certainly not least, I wish to recognize Laura Schiebelhut, BIAA's Director of Government Affairs, for her hard work and perseverance on this issue. She has my heartfelt gratitude and deepest respect.

BIAA is dedicated to educating the nation's policymakers about the value of cognitive and other brain injury rehabilitation therapies and the dire need to increase access to these therapies across both civilian and military populations. We will keep you informed as further progress develops.

Thank you for your help.