

Brain Injury
Association
of America



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Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy

April 9, 2008

Congressman Ed Perlmutter
United States House of Representatives
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of America, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2818, the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence Act of 2007.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major catalyst for the development of epilepsy. After a TBI, epilepsy can develop soon after, or it can take several years to develop. With TBI widely known as one of the signature injuries of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military healthcare system and the Veterans Administration (VA) should anticipate a steep increase in the number of veterans who face epilepsy as a result of TBI.

It is critical that the VA ensure continuing progress in its ability to serve veterans with TBI and related epilepsy. BIAA continues to advocate for the use of all available resources (including civilian sector resources when appropriate), as well as the development of new resources and system capacity within the VA, in order to ensure that all veterans with TBI receive the right care, right now.

Despite the anticipated demand, the VA lacks a national program for epilepsy with clear guidelines for assessment and treatment. VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence will help ensure that military personnel and veterans get the care they deserve, through the creation of a national epilepsy program and the delivery of valuable research that will lead to improvements in civilian care for epilepsy.

Again, the Brain Injury Association of America endorses the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence Act of 2007, and commends you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Connors, President/CEO
Brain Injury Association of America