

Brain Injury
Association
of America



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

April 9, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Murphy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Dingell and Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of America, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008.

This critical legislation would effectively delay through March 2009 the implementation of several Medicaid regulations which would have harmful effects on many individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI).

One of these rules would limit rehabilitation services for Medicaid beneficiaries, severely curtailing the ability of people with disabilities – including TBI – to receive rehabilitation services now covered under Medicaid. Access to these rehabilitative services is essential, as in many cases, these services play a vital role in allowing people with TBI to live independently in the community.

Another one of these rules would restrict the use of targeted case management (TCM), including transition case management services, to such an extent that it would seriously limit the assistance available to help move people with disabilities out of institutions and into the community.

BIAA is deeply troubled by such recent Medicaid rulemaking which threatens states' capacity to finance an array of intensive community-based services and supports for individuals with disabilities, including those with traumatic brain injury, and wholeheartedly supports swift passage of H.R. 5613.

Again, the Brain Injury Association of America strongly endorses the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 and commends you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Connors
President/CEO