

## Brain Injury Awareness Day March, 17, 2010, Sports and Concussion

The Brain Injury Association of America encourages state affiliate leaders and advocates across the country to participate in Brain Injury Awareness Day at events hosted by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force on Capitol Hill.

### Schedule of Events:

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM: **Brain Injury Awareness Fair**

First Floor Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM **Brain Injury Briefing**

**“From the Playground to the Pros: A Heads-Up on Concussion”**

Capitol Visitors Center – Congressional Meeting Room South

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM **Reception Celebrating Brain Injury Awareness Month**

First Floor Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building

If you plan to exhibit at the fair, attend the briefing or reception, please RSVP to Mandy Spears in Congressman Pascrell’s office at [mandy.spears@mail.house.gov](mailto:mandy.spears@mail.house.gov).

### Congressional Visits:

BIAA strongly encourages everyone who plans to attend Brain Injury Awareness Day to make appointments with their Representatives and Senators to advocate for improved access to care and research. Please follow these steps to schedule appointments with your Representative and Senators:

#### 1. Identify Representative & Senators

To find your representative, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), type in zip code to locate your representative. Click on the link for your representative’s Web site, where you will find their

address and phone number. To find your senators, visit [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), select state and view your senators' Web sites for address and phone number.

## **2. Telephone Your Representative & Senators to Schedule Appointment**

Call the main number listed in the Web sites for your Senators and Representative. Ask to meet with the health legislative assistant (House) or the health policy staff (Senate).

- Make sure to let them know that you are a constituent
- Ask them for a few minutes of their time on March 17, 2010 to discuss the need for increased resources for brain injury programs in their state.

Example :

"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a constituent of yours and will be visiting Capitol Hill on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> as part of Brain Injury Awareness Day. Could I have a few minutes on that day to talk to you about (state's) brain injury resources and how they affect the brain injury community in your district/state?"

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*\***

### **SCHEDULE VISITS 60-90 MINUTES APART**

Schedule appointments 60-90 minutes apart so that you have time to get from one office building to another. A map of the key House and Senate buildings can be found at: [http://www.aoc.gov/cc/cc\\_map.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/cc_map.cfm). Leave plenty of time for security lines and to eat or rest between visits. Remember, too, that Congressional staff may run behind in their appointments.

## **3. Advise BIAA and your State BIA of your plans**

Since there may be other people from your state or district planning to attend Awareness Day, it is very important for you to contact your state Brain Injury Association to let them know you've scheduled congressional visits. (You can find your state association office on BIAA's Web site at <http://www.biausa.org/stateoffices.htm>.) Please inform Sarah D'Orsie, BIAA's Director of Government Relations, at 703-761-0750 ext. 637 or [sdorsie@biausa.org](mailto:sdorsie@biausa.org) of your plans too.

## **4. Prepare for the Appointment**

Members of Congress and their staff are very busy. Many times, they only have 10-20 minutes available for a constituent visit. It is important for advocates to tell their story quickly and to make specific requests for improvements in treatment, research and other services for both civilian and military populations.

Each year, BIAA produces fact sheets on its legislative priorities. BIAA asks advocates to use the information in the fact sheets when describing the challenges individuals with brain injury and family caregivers face. Advance copies of the fact sheets will be available from BIAA's Web site at <http://www.biausa.org/policyissues.htm> beginning on March 2, 2010. Professionally printed versions of each fact sheet along with other helpful information will be available from BIAA's

booth at the Awareness Fair. Please stop by our booth to pick up these materials before your appointment.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*\***  
**COORDINATE YOUR COMMENTS**

Please plan to start each meeting by handing out the fact sheets and then making comments on the issues most important to you. If you will be making visits with others, it is a good idea to coordinate what each person in the group will discuss so that you don't repeat information and so that each person gets a chance to talk. Remember to leave time for questions too. If you don't know the answer to a question, promise to follow up and then do so!

**5. After the Visit**

Please be sure to send a thank-you note to each person/office you visited. Also please let Sarah D'Orsie know what was discussed and if follow-up information was requested.

**Navigating Capitol Hill**

If you are coming in from out of town and require a hotel room, below you will find a list of accommodations within a few miles of Capitol Hill:

Hyatt Regency, <http://washingtonregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>

Courtyard, Marriott, <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasny-courtyard-washington-capitol-hill-navy-yard>

Capitol Hill Suites, <http://www.capitolhillsuites.com>

Hotel George, <http://www.hotelgeorge.com>

Marriott, Residence Inn, <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wascp-residence-inn-washington-dc-capitol>

If you need assistance on Awareness Day itself, please come back to BIAA's booth at the Awareness Fair or contact Sarah D'Orsie at 703-761-0750 ext. 637.

Thank you!