March xx, 2018

The Honorable Scott Taylor ENTER REPRESENTATIVE

United States House of Representatives
412 Cannon House Office Building ENTER ADDRESS

Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Taylor:

I am writing as your constituent to request you support funding for the TBI programs by signing the Dear Colleague letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies that is currently being circulated by Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. and Thomas J. Rooney, co-chairs of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. The task force serves as a clearinghouse of information for Congress and the public. It promotes full funding for the TBI Act and other brain injury research programs, and provides guidance to federal agencies on policies and proposed rulemakings. Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill, which will be held on March 20, is hosted by the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.

Known as the “silent epidemic,” TBI was dubbed the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, meanwhile incidence continues to increase here at home among our nation’s civilian population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 2.5 million Americans sustain a brain injury each year and 5.3 million live with a disability as a result of a TBI. From the battlefield to the football field, TBI remains a leading cause of death and disability in both adults and youth. The primary source of funding to address this growing population is provided through the TBI Act programs.

The TBI Act, which was originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized in 2008 and 2014, is the only federal law that specifically addresses the needs of the growing population of TBI survivors. The programs authorized under the TBI Act provide public awareness and education through the CDC and TBI State Grant Program which include care capacity-building and protection, legal, referral, and advocacy services at the Administration for Community Living. Furthermore, the TBI Model Systems of Care at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) represent a vital national network of TBI research and expertise—providing the only source of non-proprietary longitudinal data on TBI experiences and a key source of evidence-based medicine. The letter also requests funding for the CDC to establish and oversee a national surveillance system to accurately determine the incidence of concussions, particularly among the most vulnerable of Americans—our children and youth.

In your district, I (enter here how you work with individuals with brain injury and their families)

If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Sarah Reingold in Congressman Pascrell’s office at Sarah.reingold@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

ENTER NAME