**Support Funding for Millions of Americans**

**Living with Traumatic Brain Injury**

***This is a programmatic request.***

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to join us in sending the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, requesting funding for traumatic brain injury (TBI) programs in the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill.

Known as the “silent epidemic,” TBI was dubbed the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, while its prevalence continues to increase here at home among our nation’s civilian population. From the battlefield to the football field, TBI remains a leading cause of death and disability in both adults and youth, taking the lives of 153 people across the country each day. The primary source of funding to combat this 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 those living with TBI. The programs authorized under the TBI Act provide public awareness and education through the CDC and State TBI 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 and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) represent a vital national network of TBI research and expertise, providing the only source of non-proprietary longitudinal data on TBI experiences and serving as 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.

If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Sarah Reingold in Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.’s office at [sarah.reingold@mail.house.gov](mailto:sarah.reingold@mail.house.gov) or Ethan Abner in Congressman Tom Rooney’s office at [ethan.abner@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethan.abner@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

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Bill Pascrell, Jr. Thomas J. Rooney

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