

November 11, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) is the nation's oldest and largest brain injury patient advocacy organization. BIAA supports S. 252, PREEMIE Act Reauthorization, National Pediatric Research Network and the Chimp Act Amendments. Thank you for introducing this very important legislation.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a misdiagnosed, misunderstood, under-funded neurological disease affecting at least 2.4 million children and adults in the U.S. each year. Depending on type and severity, brain injuries can lead to physical, cognitive, and psychosocial or behavioral impairments ranging from balance and coordination problems to loss of hearing, vision or speech. Fatigue, memory loss, concentration difficulty, anxiety, depression, impulsivity and impaired judgment are also common after brain injury. Even so-called "mild" injuries can have devastating consequences that require intensive treatment and long-term care. Often called the "silent epidemic," brain injury affects people in ways that are invisible. The injury can lower performance at school and at work, interfere with personal relationships and bring financial ruin.

Please contact Amy Colberg, BIAA's Director of Government Affairs with any questions at (703) 761-0750 x637.

Sincerely,



Susan H. Connors
President/CEO