

Dear Member of the Legislature,

I am writing to you to thank you for supporting our efforts to get a \$1 million investment for Continuum of Care for Resource Facilitation for brain injury survivors in the Executive Budget, but there is still work that needs to be done! On behalf of the millions of New Yorkers impacted by traumatic brain injuries every day, we are urging you to make sure that the Continuum of Care for Resource Facilitation program run by the Brain Injury Association of New York State is included in the final budget.

As you know, traumatic brain injury (TBI) alone outnumbers spinal cord injury, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and multiple sclerosis diagnoses combined. People with a brain injury are often left with complex problems due to the nature of their injury. Common issues include challenges with cognition, memory and/or behavioral problems, as well as physical disabilities. These challenges make managing day to day life more difficult. The unique problems that each person experiences, coupled with the lack of understanding of how brain injury manifests, makes community reintegration a challenge for many survivors.

The Continuum of Care will establish a resource facilitation and care management program to address the needs of brain injury survivors, their families, and caregivers. Survivors, families, and caregivers will have the information they need and will be connected to doctors, rehabilitation services and other community-based services, improving outcomes and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations and medical care.

The prevention and outreach aspect of the Continuum of Care program will focus on preventing brain injuries while connecting survivors to resources. In addition, the funds will go toward establishing a care management program providing support services to people with brain injury, with the goal of returning them to the least restrictive setting in their communities with all needed services in place.

The Continuum of Care program will make a significant difference in the lives of everyone impacted by brain injury, making New York State a national leader in brain injury treatment, rehabilitation, and care coordination. We urge you to include \$1 million in the budget for Continuum of Care.

Sincerely,