



BIAC

Brain Injury Association
of Connecticut

A resource in recovery. A partner in prevention.

2008-2009
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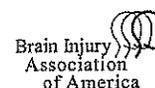
February 18, 2009
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony
Attorney Paul Slager
President, Board of Directors
Brain Injury Association of Connecticut

Good afternoon Chairpersons Geragosian, Harp, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Paul Slager, and as President of the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, I am here today to ask for your continued support.

Last December, the Center for Disease Control announced that more than three million Americans are now living with a long-term disability caused by traumatic brain injury — and that doesn't include those who were treated and released from an ER, those who never sought treatment, or those whose brain injury was not "traumatic" in origin, but "acquired" due to a stroke, a tumor, or an asphyxia-related emergency. As disturbing as that statistic may be, however, it was no surprise to those of us at BIAC.

We know all too well that nationally traumatic brain injuries now disable six times more people each year than spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS,

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What's more, we offer all of these programs, as well as all of our advocacy services, entirely free of charge.

And recently, we've been working to educate such state agencies as the Departments of Social Services, Correction, Developmental Disabilities, Children & Families, Education, and Veteran Affairs about brain injury, so that survivors are identified more quickly and treated more appropriately.

In the next twelve months, as many as 8,000 Connecticut residents will experience a traumatic brain injury — and while modern medicine will save many of those lives, it will not be able to restore “life as they knew it” to those who survive or to their loved ones. Even BIAC cannot do that — but we can and do provide brain injury survivors and their families with the ongoing support and resources needed to optimize recovery, and that makes the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut a genuinely critical lifeline on what is always a very long and difficult journey back.

With your support, we will continue in that crucial role well into the future.

I thank you.