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Testimony For BIAC  
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Hello, my name is Sherri Pliskin, I live in West Hartford and I'm married with twin girls who are 10 years old. Three weeks ago, our daughter Hannah had a diving accident and hit her head at the bottom of the pool during swim team practice. As a parent, this was one of the most terrifying moments I have ever experienced. She was rushed to Emergency at Connecticut Children's Medical Center where she had x-rays to see if she had broken her neck or back and luckily she hadn't. Within a few hours she was released with discharge papers saying she had a "Concealed Head Injury". It wasn't until I got home that I realized that I didn't ask about whether they should have done a CAT scan or MRI. I was given written information that I should keep an eye on her for the next 24 hours and to call the pediatrician to schedule a follow up appointment.

The following evening we were back in emergency because Hannah was crying uncontrollably and was hyperventilating. She just didn't seem right. It was at that point that the word "concussion" came up for the first time. I didn't know the first thing about head injuries.

A friend of mine suggested that I speak with Carrie Kramer, a brain injury specialist, at BIAC, about Hannah's concussion. I was at wits end. Hannah was experiencing

headaches, sensitivity to light, nausea, dizziness and mood swings and I didn't know what was going on with my child and I didn't know what to do. Carrie provided me with a wealth of information, not only educating me but guiding me every step of the way.

Within a couple of days I had a package sent to me from BIAC with additional information and websites. It has been just over 3 weeks and Hannah has been diagnosed with "Post Concussion Syndrome". It has been a God-send to have a person like Carrie in our corner to answer the questions that continually arise.

I can't imagine how I would have gotten through this so far if the BIAC hadn't been there for me and more importantly for my daughter. It is my understanding that BIAC is the only entity in the state that provides this kind of support and it would be devastating for this organization to have its funding eliminated. As someone whose family has benefited greatly from the services of BIAC, I strongly urge you to retain BIAC's entire operating grant.

Thank you