

To: Appropriations Committee

Date 2/28/2011

From: Diane West, sister of Jeffrey West an individual with an Acquired Brain Injury

Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing "Services for Persons with Disabilities"

This testimony concerns the call from Governor Malloy to totally eliminate the Brain Injury of Connecticut's Operating Grant. My brother sustained a brain injury in 2008 and if it were not for the BIAC I don't know what my family would have done. Within days of his accident I contacted them and they provided us with guidance and direction. There is no one else to contact in the State of Connecticut. There is no where else for a family to turn.

Brain injury is very different from other injuries. Each one is different, the doctor's cannot tell the families whether their loved one will recover. They can't give a timeframe for recovery or what their deficits might be. It is a very frightening time for a family and the BIAC was there for us.

In the three years since my brothers injury I have contacted the BIAC on numerous occasions with questions that no one else can answer. They are truly committed to helping the ever increasing amount of Acquired Brain Injury Survivors in the State of Connecticut and in helping them live their "Best Life".

Please restore the funding for this organization they are a vital link for the survivors of a brain injury and their families

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cc: BIAC