

Testimony Submitted by – Elaine Burns, President, CT Brain Injury Support Network

H.B. No. 6909 ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY BOARD.***

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Slossberg, Representative McGee and members of the Human Services Committee: My name is Elaine Burns and I am the mother of a brain injury survivor, Ryan Cornell, I am also the President of CT Brain Injury Support Network, former President of the Board of BIAC and a member of the ABI Waiver Legislative Advisory Committee.

I fully support Bill No. 6909. This board gives our public and private agencies the opportunity to have conversations with those who are directly impacted by brain injury in order to work together to help create a more coordinated support system for families and brain injury survivors.

We have seen many changes in the past two years, and a change in philosophy from some entities, in regards to services for brain injury survivors, is clear, but is it the best direction to go in? Is this the legacy CT wants to leave behind in regards to services for brain injury survivors? **A bigger question is; is this change in philosophy, model of care and best practices a change in direction our Legislators want to go in?**

My concern is that without conversations between State agencies, families and survivors who are directly impacted, and a presentation of timelines and other important information to Legislators, no one, most importantly our Legislators, can even answer the question of what direction CT should go in, and many, including Legislators, families and survivors, may not even know there is a choice.

Therefore, I fully support the establishment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board, and look forward to their findings, recommendations and discussions.

Respectfully,
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not testified