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To: Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony on behalf of BIAC

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Good Evening Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce or eliminate funding for important core services of the Department, including funding for the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut.

For over 30 years, BIAC has been a source for the Traumatically Brain Injured in our state. I was a member of the original Committee appointed by Gov. William O'Neill to study the needs of the Traumatically Brain Injured and recommend a service model to provide services. I served on the Board of Directors of the original Traumatically Brain Injury Alliance of CT and have served as a local facilitator for a support group for families in the Ellington/Vernon/Tolland area.

Why? Because my son Christopher Favreau suffered severe Traumatic Brain Injury as a 3 year child, when the vehicle we were riding in was struck by a drunk driver.

This driver escaped prosecution because there was no mandatory drunk driving testing at the time.

He escaped prosecution for failure to maintain automobile insurance, because of a loop hole in the law.

We were left with NO resources for information on services or education on what it meant to have and to care for someone with a Traumatic Brain Injury.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Alliance of CT (now the Brain Injury Alliance of CT) stepped in and provided information and resources.

Through the hard work of a core group of parents and family members, the original organization grew from a "one man band" in Rocky Hill to a staffed office with head injury specialists.

We cannot afford to lose this resource!

Despite NOT receiving an increases in 10 years, the Brain Injury Alliance of CT and even having its funds cut by 13% less than in 2008, the organization has worked with its family members to raise funds to maintain quality service. But there is a limit as to how much this