

February 11, 2016

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Greg Bubnash

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 (BIAC).

This week nine years ago, our son Mike was involved in a terrible single car accident. As a result of the accident, Mike suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). Mike fought and was able to survive the accident but we did not know where to turn to find reliable information regarding TBIs. Luckily for us, we found BIAC and talked to Melinda, a brain injury specialist there. Melinda provided us with valuable information regarding brain injuries, signs we needed to be aware of during Mike's recovery and contacts for people who could help us work through the many medical and legal issues survivors deal with. Melinda and BIAC were always there for us through many follow-up calls. We are forever indebted for the help and support we received from BIAC (all at no cost) during this difficult time and remain in contact with them as Mike continues his recovery nine years after his accident. Our experience with BIAC is similar to countless other stories which is why funding for BIAC must not be reduced or eliminated.

Despite every effort to control costs and to seek additional sources of funding, it has been increasingly more difficult for BIAC to meet the obligations of their contract, including the mandated requirement for new training, without additional funding. We are seeking the reinstatement of our contract related funding that has been removed through attrition as well as a small amount of additional funding so we can meet our mandated obligations under the requirements of our state contract. Please create a line item for the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut to at least \$150,000.

Thank you,

Greg Bubnash
Dad of brain injury survivor