March 5, 2019
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony

Good Evening Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Sarah Raskin and I am from West Hartford, CT.

I am submitting this testimony to request increasing funding for the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut in the Services for Persons with Disabilities Line in the Budget.

I have had the pleasure of supporting the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC) for the past 20 years and currently serve as the Chair of their Board of Directors. I have seen during this time the vital and important work that BIAC does as the only resource in the state for people with brain injury. BIAC provides services from prevention and education to a network of support groups across the state to professionally staffed helpline. They serve countless survivors each year who are navigating uncharted territory as brain injury effects not just physically functioning but cognitive abilities and even personality. And these changes happen in an instant leaving survivors and families lost and desperate for guidance.

The services provided by BIAC are ones that the state cannot provide and thus are essential services. The Department of Social Services does not provide these services and, in fact, depends solely on BIAC to do so. BIAC has received an operating grant from the Department of Social Services for the past 35 years to provide entirely free resources and supports which the State is unable to provide. This includes services that are required as part of the Medicaid ABI Waiver program. Without BIAC, the ABI Waiver program would not be able to be in compliance with CMS.

I thank you for your past support of BIAC and urge you increase funding in the budget for BIAC.

Thank you,

[Signature]

Sarah A. Raskin, PhD.