

# The National Brain Injury Action Plan: Summary & Talking Points

## Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill



### Key Areas of Improvements in the National Brain Injury Action Plan

The National Brain Injury Action Plan focuses on improving care, research, and support for people with brain injuries. The plan aims to:

- ✔ **Improve Diagnosis & Treatment** - Create better tools to diagnose brain injuries early and develop new treatments.
- ✔ **Enhance Data Collection & Surveillance** - Track brain injuries nationwide to understand how many people are affected and what care they receive.
- ✔ **Expand Access to Care & Support Services** - Ensure survivors and caregivers get the medical, rehabilitation, and community support they need.
- ✔ **Strengthen Research & Innovation** - Invest in brain injury research to improve recovery and long-term outcomes.
- ✔ **Improve Coordination Across Government Agencies** - Make sure federal programs work together to provide the best care possible.
- ✔ **Reduce Healthcare Costs** - Help prevent complications and long-term disabilities to lower costs for families and the healthcare system.

### OVERVIEW



Millions of Americans live with brain injuries, yet many do not receive the care and support they need. The National Brain Injury Action Plan is a proposal to create a national strategy to improve treatment, research, and services for people affected by brain injuries.

This plan would help doctors better diagnose and treat brain injuries, make sure survivors get the care they need, and help families and caregivers access support services. It would also reduce costs to families and the healthcare system by making care more effective and efficient.

### HOW THE PLAN WORKS



- The National Brain Injury Action Plan is a government plan to help people with brain injuries get better diagnosis, treatment, and long-term care.
- Led by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the National Action Plan requires coordination among federal agencies to improve prevention, research, tracking, and care for brain injuries. The Secretary of Health and Human Services must do an analysis on the current state of brain injury care, research, education and coordination and then work with an Advisory Council of federal agencies and community advocates and experts to propose a National Action Plan to improve brain injury services and care.
- The plan must be updated on an annual basis and include internal policy and legislative recommendations to improve brain injury services and care.

### WHAT WE NEED CONGRESS TO DO



- ✔ **Introduce and support this legislation** - This plan needs champions in Congress. Please co-patron and support the bill.
- ✔ **Make brain injuries a public health priority** - Survivors need action now.
- ✔ **Listen to survivors and families** - Real people are struggling every day without proper care.
- ✔ **Work together** - This is a nonpartisan issue affecting veterans, children, older adults, and families in every community.

### QUESTIONS?

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# The National Brain Injury Action Plan: Legislator Summary

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**BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA**



**NASHIA**

## Detailed Overview of the National Brain Injury Action Plan Act

### 1. Creating the National Brain Injury Action Plan

- The HHS Secretary will oversee the development and execution of a comprehensive national strategy to address brain injuries.
- The plan will focus on:
  - Expanding research and treatment options
  - Improving coordination of care across federal agencies
  - Developing national guidelines for screening, diagnosis, and care
  - Improving data collection and sharing among healthcare systems

### 2. Establishing the National Brain Injury Advisory Council

- The Act creates an Advisory Council on Brain Injury Research, Care, and Services, made up of federal and non-federal experts, survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.
- The Advisory Council will:
  - Monitor and evaluate federally funded brain injury programs.
  - Recommend priority actions to expand, modify, or streamline services.
  - Ensure public-private partnerships drive research and innovation.

### 3. Strengthening Data Collection and Surveillance

- Agencies such as HHS, CDC, and NIH must share data to improve research and policy development.
- Annual reports to Congress will assess the effectiveness of federal brain injury programs and recommend improvements.

### 4. Expanding Access to Rehabilitation and Support Services

- The Act prioritizes post-acute and community-based care, ensuring survivors have long-term support.
- Strengthens care coordination across federal, state, and local agencies to eliminate gaps in services.

### 5. Federal Coordination and Reporting

- The Act ensures HHS, the VA, CMS, DoD, and other federal agencies work together to implement the plan.

## OVERVIEW

Brain injuries affect millions of Americans, including veterans, children, athletes, older adults, and survivors of domestic violence and accidents. Despite its widespread impact, there is no national plan to coordinate research, treatment, and support services for brain injury survivors.

The National Brain Injury Action Plan Act establishes a federal strategy under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to improve brain injury prevention, diagnosis, treatment, research, and long-term care. It ensures better coordination across federal agencies, strengthens data collection and surveillance, and expands access to care and services for survivors and their families.

## WHY CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION

### 1. Brain Injury is a Major Public Health Issue

- 2.8 million Americans suffer a brain injury annually, and over 5 million live with long-term disabilities.
- Brain injuries lead to chronic conditions, loss of independence, and economic hardship for families.
- Veterans, children, athletes, and older adults are most at risk.

### 2. The U.S. Lacks a Coordinated National Strategy

- There is no single, unified plan to address brain injuries across federal agencies.
- Research, treatment, and care programs operate in silos, making services harder to access for survivors.
- This Act ensures a coordinated federal response to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, and maximize resources.

### 3. Economic & Healthcare Cost Savings

- Brain injuries cost the U.S. healthcare system billions of dollars each year due to hospital stays, long-term care, and lost productivity.
- Early diagnosis and improved post-acute care reduce long-term costs for Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance.
- Investing in research and treatment lowers healthcare spending by preventing long-term disability.

### 4. Bipartisan & Widely Supported Policy

- Brain injury impacts people of all backgrounds, including veterans, military personnel, children, and seniors.
- Ensuring access to care and rehabilitation is a nonpartisan issue with broad support.
- Strengthening research, data collection, and care coordination benefits public health, the economy, and national security.

## QUESTIONS?

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