

The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Reauthorization Act: Summary & Talking Points

Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill



What Happened in 2024?

The TBI Reauthorization Act was introduced in 2024. It was unanimously passed out of the House of Representatives. Patrons from both the House and Senate agreed on final compromise language, which was attached to and expected to pass with the original 2024 Continuing Resolution.

Due to narrowing the scope of the continuing resolution, it was removed from the package and did not pass in 2024.

How This Reauthorization Will Help People

- Authorizing funding for the State Partnership Program means people with brain injury will continue to be supported.
- Better data means better treatment. Authorization for the CDC will improve brain injury data collection, prevention, and care.
- Recognizing life-long impacts of brain injury will lead to better healthcare, long-term support, and improved quality of life for survivors.

QUESTIONS?

DENVER SUPINGER, BIAA
DSUPINGER@BIAUSA.ORG

ZAIDA RICKER, NASHIA
ZRICKER@NASHIA.ORG

OVERVIEW



The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act helps people with brain injuries by authorizing programs that provide support, services, and research. Advocates are asking Congress to reauthorize the TBI Act. The TBI Reauthorization Act had bipartisan support in 2024, but was not included in the final 2024 continuing resolution. **The current reauthorization expired September 30, 2024. We need Congress to reauthorize the TBI Act NOW!**

WHAT THE TBI ACT DOES



- Helps states provide services for people with brain injuries by authorizing funding for the TBI State Partnership Grant Program.
- Provides more advocacy services for brain injury survivors by authorizing the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Grant Program.
- Recognizes brain injury impacts survivors throughout their life, allowing them get long-term care and support.
- Authorizes the CDC's TBI Program to improve brain injury data and education.
- Clarifies that brain injury programs can help those with injuries from lack of oxygen (hypoxia) and other acquired brain injuries.

WHY CONGRESS NEEDS TO ACT



- ✓ **Brain injuries are a major public health issue** - 2.8 million Americans suffer a TBI each year, and over 5 million live with long-term disabilities.
- ✓ **Many states do not have enough funding to support survivors** - Right now, only 31 states receive TBI grants, leaving millions without access to services.
- ✓ **Brain injuries are lifelong conditions** - Many people struggle with long-term challenges like memory loss, migraines, depression, and mobility issues

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Due to narrowing the scope of the continuing resolution, it was removed from the package along with the other health bills and did not pass in 2024.

How This Reauthorization Will Help People

- This is the only federal legislation dedicated to supporting non-military professionals in receiving care.
- Better data means better treatment – Authorizing funding for the CDC will improve brain injury data collection, prevention, and care.
- Recognizing life-long impacts of brain injury will lead to better healthcare, long-term support, and improved quality of life for survivors.

OVERVIEW



The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act helps people with brain injuries by funding programs that provide support, services, and data.

Advocates are asking Congress to reauthorize the TBI Act. The TBI Reauthorization Act had bipartisan support in 2024, but was not included in the final 2024 continuing resolution. **The current reauthorization expired September 30, 2024. We need Congress to reauthorize the TBI Act NOW!**

WHAT THE TBI ACT DOES

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) administers the TBI Act funding. The Act authorizes the TBI State Partnership Grant Program, which helps states increase access to services and supports for individuals with brain injury throughout their lives.

- Research shows that individuals with brain injuries in states with TBI State Partnership Program grants experience better long-term outcomes compared to those in states without these grants.
- These small grants have a far-reaching impact by enabling states to coordinate efforts on critical issues, leading to more effective services and better support for people with brain injuries.

It is also used for the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) TBI Grant Program, which helps states provide advocacy services for people with brain injury. Currently 31 states receive TBI State grants.

The House and Senate have a compromise agreement to reauthorize the TBI Act and make some improvements. This includes:

- Reauthorizing the current programs at level funding
- Expanding the eligibility criteria for ACL programs to include hypoxic and other acquired brain injuries;
- Allowing a state to request a waiver of the match requirement if they cannot meet the match to carry out the grant purposes. The match decrease can only be for that fiscal year and states must maintain at least the match that they have had during the previous fiscal year
- Renaming the TBI Program at CDC to honor Congressman Bill Pascrell
- Require an examination of brain injury as a chronic condition that may impact someone across the lifespan. CDC plans to accomplish this through work with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

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REAUTHORIZE THE TBI ACT TODAY!