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June 12, 2019

The Honorable Matt Dolan
Ohio Senate Finance Committee Chairman
Senate Building - Ground Floor
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Re: Senate Amendment for the Ohio Brain Injury Program Biennial Budget – SC 4105

Dear Senator Dolan,

I am writing this letter in support of the above referenced amendment to the Ohio biennial budget which is being submitted by Senator Kunze. The Brain Injury Association of Ohio has served the cause of brain injury prevention, treatment, education, research and advocacy for over thirty years and seen the steady increase in incidence over that period without corresponding public policy response.

I come to you and the Committee now to advocate for those Ohioans who are at risk or who have sustained traumatic brain injury to ask urgently for your support to the amendment. The need for this amendment is nothing short of urgent, not only for funding, which is vital, but for the strengthening of the charge to the Brain Injury Program of Ohio (ORC 3335.60) to develop and provide services and supports to the brain injured population of our state, their families and caregivers. Unfortunately, the funds connected fall far short of the need.

AND, that population is NOT small! Recent studies have shown that 1.8 MILLION adult Ohioans – MORE THAN ONE IN FIVE, have incurred at least 1 TBI in their lifetime that was severe enough to cause loss of consciousness. (Source: 2014 Ohio Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System)

Known as the "silent epidemic," TBI affects all demographic groups from babies to grandparents and shatters the lives of individuals and families often to the point of disintegration too often leading to depression, withdrawal, substance abuse, isolation and homelessness. The amendment is a well-thought out plan developed by the Ohio Brain Injury Advisory Committee (ORC 3335.61) with components to provide services and supports to individuals and families and to develop a program of training for professionals who provide care to TBI patients in the special needs and best treatment practices for these injuries.

We ask your help in moving Ohio forward in the ranks of the many states who have already made such commitment.

With deepest thanks,

Stephanie Ramsey, BSN, MPH
President Board of Trustees

cc: Senators: Dave Burke, Rob McColley, Peggy Lehner, Steve Wilson, Lou Terhar, Stephanie Kunze, John Eklund, Nickie Antonio, Vernon Sykes, Kirk Schuring, Jay Hottinger, Sean O'Brien

Creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy

