

Written Testimony of Brian S Palmer
Caregiver/Spouse/MBA/PMP/CSM

In Support of an Amendment to HB 96 to Increase Funding for the Ohio Brain Injury Program
May 13, 2025

Chairman Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Brian Palmer, and I am the Caregiver & Spouse of someone who has experienced a traumatic brain injury. I'm here today to ask you to support an increase in the line item for the Ohio Brain Injury Program.

In 2019, my Wife experienced a traumatic brain injury due to Stroke. Since then, our lives have changed in ways we never expected. My Wife lost her job, her sight, cognitive ability, and use of her left side. Additionally, being the only Caregiver for the last 5+ years while maintaining full-time employment has taken an emotional/physical drain on me. Finally, my Wife & I have fallen through the cracks of the healthcare system; our situation does not receive any attention/assistance without an advocate.

The Brain Injury Association of Ohio has been a lifeline for us. Through their NeuroSparks program, we've found guidance, connection, and hope. This 3-day intensive program connected us to resources and provided us with tools for my wife's rehabilitation that we had not received anywhere else. But I know so many others are still struggling without access to these services.

Currently, Ohio spends only about 5 cents per resident on brain injury — far less than what is needed to meet the actual demand. This is how people like my wife and I fall through the cracks.

With increased funding, more people like my wife could find the support they need to maintain their 'new normal'. Without these services, it's easy to get lost in the system or fall through the cracks.

Please invest in survivors. Please support increasing the funding for the Ohio Brain Injury Program. Your support can change lives — just like it changed mine.

Thank you for listening to my story and for caring about Ohio families like mine.

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