

Nathaniel B. Dusseau II, MS
4030 Garrison Road
Toledo, Ohio 43613

June 09, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for The Brain Injury Research Foundation (BIRF)

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the Ohio House Finance Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB434, The Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Accelerator Pilot Program (TBITXL).

My name is Nathaniel Dusseau, current medical student and previous research administrator at The Ohio State University (OSU). I am writing to express my support for funding the Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Accelerator Pilot Program bill, a desperately needed piece of legislation to improve the lives of many current and future Ohioans dealing with traumatic brain injury (TBI). At OSU, I served as the Clinical Research Manager of the TBI Model Systems program, where I gained first-hand experience with affected patients and families through our research studies. That research has clearly demonstrated the need for improved treatment options, specifically new drug developments, for which there is little current funding for. This gap in medical knowledge was an inspiration for me to leave my role at OSU to pursue becoming a physician. Now, I am medical student at The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, and plan on specializing in TBI care in the future. That is why the cause of BIRF is personal to me; I have seen the real effects TBI has on families in Ohio and have dedicated myself to be part of the future that finds solutions for this issue. Funding BIRF's mission would address a critical need to benefit the lives of Ohioans. The potential impact cannot be understated, TBI will happen to nearly a quarter of the population and cost the state billions of dollars. Investing into this initiative is of benefit to our state in a multitude of ways. I hope that when I graduate and begin caring for my fellow Ohioans, there will be support in place here to make a difference in the lives of those affected by TBI. I urge you to vote this bill into law, for the good of our entire state.

If you have any questions regarding my letter, please contact me via email at nathanieldusseau@icloud.com or phone at (419) 908-6059.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel B. Dusseau, II