

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies,  
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Service,  
Education and Related Agencies  
2358- B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies,  
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Appropriations  
Labor, Health and Human Service,  
Education and Related Agencies  
2358- B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blunt and Murray and Representatives Cole and DeLauro:

We write to request a \$5,000,000 increase for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Injury Prevention and Control's National Concussion Surveillance Study in the FY2017 Labor-Health-Education Appropriations bill. Completion of this survey would make CDC fully responsive to the recommendations issued in the 2013 report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, entitled *Sports Related Concussions in Youth: Improving the Science Changing the Culture*. We appreciate your leadership in advancing this initiative forward.

Traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) have been referred to as a "silent epidemic" plaguing our country. An epidemic, that we unfortunately do not have enough information to properly prevent or treat. To date, all fifty States have enacted legislation to assist with prevention of youth sports related concussions, albeit each State approach varies, however there is still no way to collect information to determine the extent of this problem. CDC, through the Concussion Surveillance Study has the opportunity to collect and analyze this important data.

CDC has crafted a survey that has the capacity to capture data on concussions that is currently missed by our healthcare data sources and other existing data sources. In addition, this methodology will capture youth along with adult concussions and TBIs. This national survey should be seen as a game changer in the concussions and TBI fields because it will provide data that currently does not exist. As a nation, we cannot afford for this "silent epidemic" to stay hidden any longer. We need to be equipped with the information to adequately assess and prevent TBIs from occurring. Our doctors, our coaches, our parents, and all athletes need to be informed to protect our individual health and the health of this nation. Now more than ever it is

vital to provide funding for the National Concussion Surveillance Study to successfully combat concussions and TBIs across America.

We applaud you for your previous efforts in this area, and we look forward to working with you to help advance this important initiative.

Sincerely,  
Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)  
National Association of Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)