

HCR

31

Alaska State Legislature



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Representative Lesil McGuire
Chair, Judiciary Committee

HCR 31

"A Resolution proclaiming April 2004 as Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month"

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Every 21 seconds someone in the United States will sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI); which equals more than 4,000 people daily. Of the 1,460,000 people annually who suffer these injuries, 50,000 will die while another 80,000 will experience life long disabilities associated with their injury.

In Alaska alone at least 600 people receive acute care for brain injuries, 150 Alaskans die, and another 190 experience the beginning of life long disabilities because of these injuries each year. These numbers can't be reduced by finding a "cure", but only through effective prevention of TBIs. It is for this reason we propose proclaiming April 2004 "Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month".

Along with the Brain Injury Association of America, the Centers for Disease control, the Alaska Mental Health Trust and many others, we would like the citizens of Alaska to be aware of the effects of traumatic brain injuries and ways to prevent its occurrence. From use of seatbelts to bicycle helmets, there are many ways to prevent these tragedies from occurring. Nevertheless, only by making Alaskans aware of traumatic brain Injuries, their cause, and prevention can we lower the number of injuries and deaths caused each year.

23-LS1749D
Utermohle
2/24/04

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE MCGUIRE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming April 2004 as Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** brain injury is a serious, national public health epidemic affecting at least
4 5,300,000 Americans; and

5 **WHEREAS**, every 21 seconds, someone in the United States will sustain a traumatic
6 brain injury, which equals more than 4,000 people daily; and

7 **WHEREAS**, each year, at least 50,000 Americans die and 80,000 Americans
8 experience the onset of life-long disabilities as a result of sustaining a brain injury; and

9 **WHEREAS**, each year at least 600 Alaskans receive acute care for trauma related to
10 brain injuries, 150 Alaskans die from brain injury, and approximately 190 Alaskans
11 experience the beginning of life-long disabilities requiring marked adaptations to daily
12 functioning as a result of sustaining a brain injury; and

13 **WHEREAS** prevention is the only known cure; and

14 **WHEREAS** the mission of the Brain Injury Association of America is to create a
15 better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, and advocacy; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the

1 Health Resources and Services Administration, the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center,
2 the Brain Injury Association of America, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority strive
3 to increase brain injury awareness, thus making prevention and safety measures part of the
4 American culture in an effort to decrease the number of brain injuries;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
6 April 2004 as Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges schools, community
8 groups, and other public and private agencies and individuals to observe Traumatic Brain
9 Injury Awareness Month with appropriate activities that increase the public's awareness of
10 traumatic brain injury, the leading causes of traumatic brain injury, and ways of preventing
11 traumatic brain injury.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HESS
committee name

Committee on HCR 31, dated 2-26-04
bill # / subject public hearing date

See attached 4 pages

Signed: Richard Warrington
 Testifier

TBI Advisory Board
 Representing (optional)

313 Cindy Circle Kenai, AK 99611
 Address

283-5711
 Phone number

Hello Legislators,

My name is Richard Warrington; I'm a 25 year Survivor of TBI. I've been in Alaska for 18 years.

I was appointed to the National Ambassador Program in 1997.

I am still giving Prevention Presentations at Schools and Community Organizations.

I gave testimony to the Legislative Hess Committee that same year on Brain Injury.

I'm very happy to hear Representative McGuire is sponsoring HCR31 today. April is a fine Month.

How ever National BIA Choose October, and Congress Passed a Proclamation claiming October as National Brain Injury Awareness Month.

Last year Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor, Dale Bagley gave a Proclamation for the Month of October for the Peninsula.

I would like to see the Wording on Page 2 line 3 after "Brain Awareness,___

I'd like to insert:

And reducing the incidence of Brain Injury by Promoting Traffic Safety, Encouraging Helmet use, decreasing violent behavior, Through Education, Increasing safety practices,

___ Thus making prevention & Safety.

This is the only change I'd like to see made,

Other wise I think it's Great!

I'd also like to make an Announcement

Please come and Join us on our 8th Annual Brain Injury Awareness Walk and Bar-B-Q held on the 1st Saturday after Memorial Day, This year it will be held on the 5th Of June.

Walk Starts with Registration at 10:30, walk starts at 11:am Through Beautiful down Town Kenai, to the SoftBall Park Pavilion for a Bar-B-Q.

We ask for a \$10.00 registration fee or a sponsor sheet, with Collected Donations.

Sincerely,

Richard Warrington

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2004

Brain injury research boosted by driver fines

■ A new law charges an extra dollar on motor vehicle fines to help fund medical research.

By TOM BELL
Associated Press

TRENTON — New Jersey drivers will pay a \$1 surcharge on motor vehicle fines to fund medical research on brain injuries under provisions of a bill signed into law Friday.

When Gov. James E. McGreevey signed the Brain Injury Research Act, it made New Jersey the first state in the country with a dedicated funding source for research on traumatic brain injuries.

"By creating a continuous source of funding, we finally bring hope to thousands of New Jersey families and indeed offer miraculous possibilities for families across the nation," McGreevey said.

The law also created the New Jersey State Commission of Brain Injury Research, an 11-member panel that will review and approve research projects and make sure the funding is

not diverted for other uses.

McGreevey signed the law at the home of the Benigno family in Clifton. Dennis Benigno has been disabled since a car hit him 20 years ago.

"Brain injuries are traumatic and life-changing and, at this point, almost entirely incurable," said Sen. Joseph Coniglio, D-Bergen, a co-sponsor of the bill. "The state owes it to families like Dennis Benigno's who have had to suffer the debilitating effects of a brain injury to fully support this type of life-restoring research."

The brain injury commission will include the state health commissioner, representatives from Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, six members of the public appointed by the governor and two other members to be appointed by the Senate president and Assembly speaker.

There are about 5 million Americans living with disabilities caused by brain injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

My Life My Shadow

I am one of the walking wounded
I have my tale to tell
All the struggles within me
Are kept within my shell


As my shadow follows my every move
Facing not a future
My dreams confused
Only walking on my history
Making life's struggle my strength
My shadow now is courage
A different life - A different journey

So stand in your shadow
Recognize your own dignity
Be a Somebody
Be a Hero to yourself

Bernadette Kolpacki
BIA Ambassador

To learn more about the
Ambassador Program contact:

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McLean, Virginia 22102
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<http://www.biausa.org>

Ambassador Program

*Speakers Bureau
of the
Brain Injury Association*

"I am merely one of the two million
people that sustain brain injuries
each year... We all face a myriad
of challenges that are frequently
overwhelming and that require
tremendous inner courage..."

James Brady
Vice Chairman of BIA, 1998


Brain Injury Association, Inc.

What is the Ambassador Program?

- The Ambassador Program of the Brain Injury Association effectively promotes prevention and education by creating a venue where people with brain injury can communicate personal stories of injury and recovery.
- Ambassadors combine knowledge and personal insight into brain injury — linking prevention issues with real-life examples.
- The goals of the Ambassador Program include:
 - Increasing awareness and reducing the incidence of brain injury by promoting traffic safety
 - Encouraging helmet use
 - Decreasing violent behavior through education
 - Increasing safety practices

What are the Benefits of the Ambassador Program?

- The Ambassador Program provides services to a variety of audiences including schools, businesses, medical facilities and other civic organizations.
- Speaking engagements are tailored to meet the needs of individual audiences.
- The program focuses on injury prevention and education for *all age groups*.
- Each Ambassador's story is unique and personal—creating an intimate relationship between audience and speaker regarding the topic of brain injury.
- *Prevention* is the underlying message of all Ambassadors, who are able to illustrate through first hand experiences what can happen without prevention measures.

Who are Ambassadors?

- All Ambassadors have either sustained a brain injury or have been directly and personally affected by a person with brain injury.
- BIA Ambassadors vary in age and experience.
- With participants from every segment of the community, the Ambassadors of this nationwide program symbolize all individuals with brain injury.
- BIA Ambassadors not only serve as personal representatives, they also stand for the Brain Injury Association and its supporters.
- All individuals serving as Ambassadors do so on a voluntary basis; without any direct financial gain.

"I have a doubt that in our small group of the unglorious, commonest, most ordinary people, there would be indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead