

TBI Act Update!

Welcome to the TBI Act Update!

February 2003

2003 TBI Act Finally Funded

After more than a year and several long, hard months of fighting, the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives finally agreed on funding levels for the remaining 11 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2003. Though the bills should have been completed by last September in time for the fiscal year that began in October, Congress and the Administration could not agree on appropriate levels of funding and remained in gridlock for almost five months beyond their deadline. Finally completed was the health appropriations bill, which TBI Act funding falls under.

Your Hard Work Paid Off

Your hard work and persistence over the past year truly paid off. The final appropriations for health programs were under very tight constraints, as the Administration was pushing for level funding while Congress, originally calling for small increases, was even considering last minute across the board cuts for all health programs. In the end, many programs were fighting just to keep their funding levels from getting cut, while any increases were considered a major victory. Even with this backdrop, the TBI Act received increases in funding in every area! Here is the breakdown:

- **Health Resources And Services Administration (HRSA)**

For the HRSA state grant programs, Congress provided \$6.5 million, an increase of \$500,000 over FY 2002.

For Protection and Advocacy services, Congress appropriated \$3 million, a doubling of the program's \$1.5 million in FY 2002.

- **Centers For Disease Control And Prevention (CDC)**

Congress appropriated an additional \$1 million to augment funding for the Traumatic Brain Injury prevention program. This was in the face of an overall budget cut of \$62,000 from the CDC Injury Prevention and Control program.

Thank You

This was one of if not the most strenuous and drawn-out appropriations process on record. To all of you who put in so much effort in the face of this up hill battle to make the voice of the brain injury community heard, the Brain Injury Association of America congratulates you and more importantly, thanks you. The continued effort that you put in is the reason for these remarkable victories. The selflessness you have exhibited will go a long way toward improving the lives of so many people and families affected by our nation's silent epidemic

Sincerely,

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