

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
H-405, Main Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

The undersigned members of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force and others, respectfully request increased funding be appropriated for the Department of Defense (DOD) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 to identify and care for wounded warriors with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and psychological health (PH) issues and to improve research in these critical areas.

As you well know, TBI continues to be the signature injury among our nation's service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 300,000 troops have been diagnosed with mild TBI since 2000. This number continues to increase as identification and detection methods become more accurate. TBI is a complex condition that requires comprehensive, specialized care. In recent years, the DOD has made significant strides in improving both in-theater and post-incident assessment and diagnosis, but still more needs to be done in evaluating troops' ability to return to duty. Intensive and innovative rehabilitation care is also needed for those sustaining severe TBIs and left with varying levels of disorders of consciousness.

Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center:

Since 1992, the DVBIC has coordinated care for our service members from the battlefield to the community and has engaged in a wide range of TBI research to improve state of the art medical treatment and rehabilitation. Increased funding would allow the work of the DVBIC to continue focusing on enhanced screening techniques for better evaluation, treatment, follow-up, and staying at the forefront of developing technology for field detection of TBI. DVBIC will also continue its multi-center clinical trials to improve medication and rehabilitation, and maintain the 15-year longitudinal study as mandated by the NDAA.

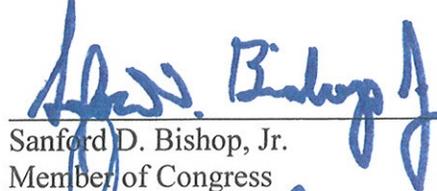
National Intrepid Center of Excellence:

Increased funding is needed for NICoE, which is responsible for treating military personnel diagnosed with TBI and/or PH for which other programs have not proven successful. We must address the incidence of suicide and the myriad of psychological problems our troops are experiencing as a result of their service on the battlefield. It is imperative that our troops receive every possible opportunity to receive the care and rehabilitation they need and deserve to either

return to theater or to reenter the civilian workforce. Thank you for your consideration of this request to help serve our troops.

Sincerely,


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

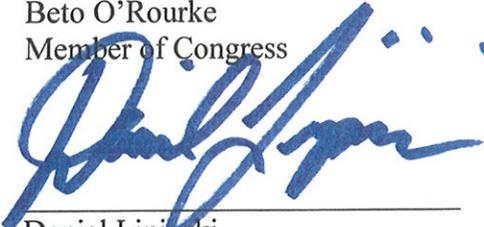

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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Lloyd Doggett
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Dan Kildee
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Member of Congress



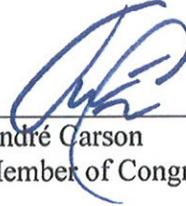
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



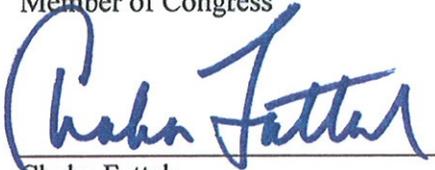
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



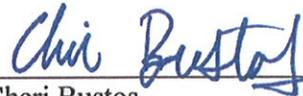
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress