Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2005

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Obey:

As the House and Senate prepare to resolve differences between their respective Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills for FY 2006, the undersigned members of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, and other Members of Congress, urge you to retain the Senate provided funding level of $9.297 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Maternal and Child Health's (MCH) TBI Program.

According to the CDC, at least 1.5 million Americans sustain a TBI annually and at least 5.3 million Americans are living with a disability resulting from a TBI. The cost of TBI in the U.S. is estimated to be $56 billion annually. The statistics involving brain injury are increasing even more now that reports show that traumatic brain injuries account for a staggering number of casualties for those who survive combat in Iraq.

The HRSA/MCH Federal TBI Program is the only federal program to assist States in improving and developing services and supports to ensure that individuals with traumatic brain injury have the opportunity to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work, make choices about their daily lives and participate fully in community life. The strength of this program has been the flexibility in allowing States to identify their own needs and to develop their unique plans. The program also provides funding to serve an array of advocacy needs for people living with TBI.

We recognize the extraordinarily difficult decisions the Committee must make in finalizing this year's appropriations process and again urge you to provide the critical resources needed by the HRSA/MCH TBI Program to continue its good work on behalf of people and their families living with brain injury. We also appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to not only maintain, but enhance funding for the TBI Act.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell Jr.

Todd Platts

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Ruben Hinojosa

Ralph M. Hall

Tom Lantos

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Jim Oberstar

Tom Davis

Carolyn B. Maloney

[illegible]

Major R. Owens

Donald M. Payne

[illegible]

Henry A. Waxman

[illegible]

Robert Menendez

Gary L. Ackerman

Barney Frank

Lynn C. Woolsey

Jim Leach

Collin C. Peterson

Peter DeFazio

Edward J. Markey

Dale E. Kildee

Wm. Lacy Clay

Jim Langevin

Mike Thompson

Hugh Doggett

Rod A. Brady

G. Brown

Frank Pallone Jr.

Jim McKeon

Michael McHenderson

Ted Strickland

Gregory W. Meeks

Stephen L. Lynch

Lois Capps

Mike Ross

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Robert E. Cramer

Michael E. Capuano

Theodore McCotter

[illegible]

Virgil Goode

Neil Abercrombie

Raúl M. Grijalva

John Smatt

Chris Van Hollen

Ruth Holt

Frank J. Pallone

Tammy Baldwin

Rahm Emanuel

Bill Jenkins

Jim McDermott

Corrine Brown

Eliot L. Engel

Jerrold Nadler

Jim Moran

Jan Schakowsky

Carolyn McCarthy

Albert R. Wynn

Rush Holt

Rick Boucher