



NASHIA

November 18, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

As you consider appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the undersigned organizations request that you appropriate at least the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations level of \$2 million to fund the National Concussion Surveillance System. While we would ideally like to see the program funded at the \$5 million authorized-level by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Pub. Law 115-377), we are grateful for the House's funding of \$2 million. We are confident that this funding level will allow CDC to develop an initial system that will be beneficial in collecting necessary data.

This provision supports the recommendations of the Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth; the Institute of Medicine (IOM); National Research Council's report, which call for CDC to establish and oversee a national surveillance system to accurately determine the incidence of sports-related concussions, including those in youth ages 5 to 21. This recommendation came about as the Committee concluded that there is currently insufficient data to accurately estimate the incidence of sports-related concussions in youth and in subpopulations of youth. While the IOM report focused on the need for data relating to sports-related concussions, data is needed to capture all incidences of concussions that may be due to falls, work related injuries, domestic violence, and recreational injuries.

In its 2014 report, "Surveillance Report of Traumatic Brain Injury Related Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths," the CDC found that falls were the leading cause of injury for TBI-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in 2014, and over half of TBIs attributed to falls were in the youngest (0-4 years) and oldest (≥ 75 years) age groups, suggesting a need to intensify efforts related to fall prevention, particularly in these age groups.

In order for the CDC Concussion Surveillance System to be able to meet the goals of these reports and the authorized language, we need to see at least \$2 million funded for the program. The level of \$1 million included in the Senate Democratic version of the Labor-HHS-Education bill is helpful, but we understand it would not be enough to adequately capture the extent of concussions in the United States,



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to identify populations at risk necessary to determine federal programmatic priorities, to support and evaluate prevention activities and efforts, and to assist States in planning for ongoing follow up and treatment as the result concussion-related disabilities.

As such, we strongly request at least the House-passed version of \$2 million for the National Concussion Surveillance System to ensure that we accurately determine the incidence of concussions, particularly among the most vulnerable of Americans. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)

AANS/CNS Joint Section on Neurotrauma & Critical Care

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Physical Therapy Association

Brain Injury Association of America

Concussion Legacy Foundation

Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Gerard A. Gioia, PhD, Chief, Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology, Director, Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program, Children's National Hospital, Professor, Depts. of Pediatrics and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences George Washington University School of Medicine

Institute to Promote Athlete Health & Wellness

Mark Rosenberg, Founding Director, NCIPC

MomsTeam Institute of Youth Sports Safety/SmartTeams Program

National Athletic Trainers' Association

PINK Concussions

Sports Institute at University of Washington Medicine

UGA Concussion Research Laboratory

United States Snowboard and Freeski Association (USASA)

USABaseball

American College of Sports Medicine

American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM)

Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona

Center on Brain Injury Research and Training, University of Oregon

Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory, Department of Emergency Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine

International Brain Injury Society

Julianne Schmidt, PhD, ATC, Associate Professor, Co-director, UGA Concussion Research Laboratory, Co-director, Biomechanics Laboratory

Matthew Gfeller Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

National Concussion Management Center

National Safety Council

North American Brain Injury Society (NABIS)

Police Families for Smart Policies

Safe States Alliance

United States Brain Injury Alliance

USA Football

USA Lacrosse