Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Signing of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996!

Today marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act, which President Bill Clinton signed on July 29, 1996. H.R.248 was sponsored by U.S. Congressman James Greenwood, who is pictured above, standing left behind the President and also supported by Senators Edward Kennedy and Orrin Hatch, who is standing in the middle of the back row. Standing in the back row, behind the President, is George A. Zitnay, Ph.D., who was the President and CEO of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), the driving force behind the legislation, and seated to the right is James Brady, former Press Secretary to President Ronald Reagan and honorary national spokesperson for the BIAA.

H.R. 248 authorized funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to administer surveillance, prevention, and research programs and State grants for purposes of improving access to service delivery. These programs are carried out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Administration for Community Living (ACL). ACL currently administers the State Grant and Protection & Advocacy Grant Programs, formerly administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Over the years, 48 States, Territories, and District of Columbia have received grants to develop expand State infrastructure and to expand access to underserved and unserved individuals with TBI. The TBI Act was last reauthorized in 2014.

The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators assists State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injuries and their families.

www.nashia.org