

My name is Donna Johnson, I am a nurse working in a small rural community on the Southern Oregon coast and this is in support of SB700. We have very limited resources here in our community to help students who suffer a traumatic brain injury. Often times we need help in coordinating services needed to help these students get the assistance they need in order to regain as much function as possible. Without the support of the research done by groups and individuals like CBIRT we would be floundering in many of the outskirts of the state. Their research and willingness to help with coordination of care makes this job, while still very difficult, easier knowing we have somewhere to turn for information and help on meeting the individual needs of the students. Each TBI has it's own presentation and set of specialists needed to give these kids the best possible shot at recovery. Their needs encompass a variety of specialists depending on the part of the brain involved, and those of us who only see these injuries on a rare basis need resources who are experienced in recognizing the needs as they present and offering solutions for us to try. Their research continues to help find new and improved ways to aid in recovery of basic and complex skills after a TBI. The support of these researchers to families, individuals, physicians, teachers, counselors, school nurses, therapists and many others is invaluable. Please fund this bill to provide the citizens of Oregon, and especially our children who have had this traumatic experience, with resources, research and people who can help coordinate care in a manner to get the best possible outcome. Thank you for your consideration.