

To whom it may concern,

As a traumatic Brain Injury survivor and Licensed Professional Counselor who specializes in treating individuals with Traumatic and Acquired brain injury, I want to express my strong support for Senate bill 700. I know first-hand how difficult it is for others to understand the impacts brain injury has on an individual and how isolating recovery can feel when there is a lack of awareness amongst peers, family members and even professionals about brain injury. For this reason, I learned early on in my recovery that I had to advocate for my needs and be forthcoming about my challenges post- brain injury. My outspoken personality and supportive family helped greatly with my recovery and helping others to understand more about brain injury but not all survivors are as lucky in this regard as I was. The first two years post -brain injury were some of the most isolating years of my life.

I chose to become a professional counselor specifically to work with individuals with brain injury knowing that brain injury survivors need more people on their side who understand what they are going through. As a counselor in Private practice, I have seen that all of the brain injury survivors that I work with have the shared frustration about having trouble coordinating services for their care and feeling like there is a major lack of awareness of the issues they struggle with and their needs as they continue to recover and try to find their new "normal."

This bill will have a positive impact on so many lives and I encourage whoever has the opportunity to vote on it to please vote in favor of it.

Warmly,

Kate Robinson, MA, LPC, CADC1

Clear Path Counseling, LLC

* Only survivor of private plane accident in 1991.