



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

March 10, 2021

Statement in support of Senate Bill 700
Judy Dettmer, Director for Strategic Partnerships
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Dear Madame Chair and members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Judy Dettmer. I am the Director for Strategic Partnerships at the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). NASHIA provides information on national trends, best practices, and state contacts to federal agencies, state and national associations and TBI stakeholders across the country. NASHIA provides technical assistance to state governments and their partners.

I have worked in the field of brain injury since 1989. Prior to working with NASHIA I was the Director for the State of Colorado's Brain Injury Program within the Colorado Department of Human Services. CO has been successfully providing robust service coordination (often referred to as resource facilitation) and skill building supports for approximately 20 years. The majority of states have a resource facilitation program in place to assist survivors of brain injury and their families in navigating the complex systems and supports that they need to achieve better outcomes following brain injury. This is because it is a proven efficient and cost-effective model for supporting those with brain injury. In my role with NASHIA we receive requests from families and survivors to link them to services in their communities. It is difficult to have to tell a family there are no resource facilitation supports in your state or that what is available is not adequate to really support them. This is the case currently in OR. OR is one of only 11 states that does not have a resource facilitation program. This is ironic given that OR leads the way in terms of research and training on brain injury.

What we know from a national perspective is that implementing a resource facilitation program is an efficient and cost-effective measure that a state can take to support individuals with brain injury achieve better outcomes. When individuals are not provided guidance in accessing needed resources and supports, research shows an increase in emergency room visits, substance use abuse, unmanaged mental health concerns, job loss, homelessness, and involvement with the justice system. These issues are amplified in traditionally under-served populations such as those who are minorities and those living in rural communities. As you all are aware, the cost to mitigate these issues can be astronomical. Whereas on the flip side of that equation, if people with brain injuries are offered the lifeline of resource facilitation this can go a long way to simply prevent these fall outs from happening. Even though brain injury is considered a public health crisis by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there are

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Assisting State government in promoting partnerships and building systems to meet the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families.



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limited Federal dollars available to states to address brain injury. Therefore, funding of resource facilitation needs to come from the states. Considering the negative affects of not providing these supports, a state investing in resource facilitation is investing not only in the survivor but also in the state's economy.

Oregon is well positioned to implement an effective and efficient resource facilitation program. OR has the infrastructure and expertise in place to make this happen and to ensure the success of the program. Oregon can also benefit from technical assistance from NASHIA and states that have been providing resource facilitation for decades should that be of interest. If this bill is passed, it will surely result in a successful and cost saving outcome for the state of OR. OR has NASHIAs full support in developing and implementing this program once the bill passes.

In closing, I ask for your sincere consideration of passing Senate Bill 700. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding my testimony, brain injury, and/or resource facilitation.

Sincerely,

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