



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF STATE HEAD INJURY
ADMINISTRATORS**

April 28, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Campos, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Judy Dettmer. I am the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA). 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. I am here to urge you to support the passage of SB 420 to create the mechanism for a Brain Injury resource navigation program in OR.

A vast majority of states have a resource navigation 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 is a national leader in research and training on brain injury.

What we know from a national perspective is that implementing a resource navigation program is an efficient and cost-effective measure that states can take to support individuals with brain injury achieve better outcomes. When individuals are not provided guidance in accessing needed resources and supports such as those offered through resource navigation, research shows an increase in emergency room visits, substance use abuse, unmanaged mental health concerns, job loss, homelessness, and involvement with the justice system. Which translates to astronomical costs to the state. These issues are amplified in traditionally under-served populations such as those who are minorities and those living in rural communities. Even though brain injury is considered a public health crisis by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, there are limited Federal dollars available to states to address brain injury. Therefore, funding of resource navigation needs to come from the states. Considering the negative effects of not providing these supports, a state investing in resource navigation is investing, not only in the survivor and their family, but also in the state's economy.

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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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Oregon is well positioned to implement an effective and efficient resource navigation 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 navigation 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 NASHIA's full support in developing and implementing this program once the bill passes. The additional benefit to this bill is that it also creates an accountability mechanism and ensures engagement of state agencies and community partners in providing the necessary resources and supports to ensure success of individuals with brain injury.

In closing, I ask for your sincere consideration of passing Senate Bill 420.

Thank you,

Judy L. Dettmer
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