

Submitter: Christopher Ives

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3007

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my support for HB 3007. As a school psychologist, I have worked with students recovering from brain injuries and have seen the challenges they face. I also bring a personal perspective—I sustained a traumatic brain injury and skull fracture at the age of seven and continue to experience cognitive challenges decades later. Brain injuries are often invisible, yet they significantly affect a person's ability to think, learn, and interact with the world. The reality is that no student asks for this to happen to them. I certainly didn't ask for a stopped truck to suddenly accelerate and hit me in a crosswalk. And no students ask for trauma that disrupts their learning and daily life. But once a brain injury occurs, the effects can last a lifetime, and students deserve the support necessary to navigate this difficult reality.

Importantly, brain injuries do not end at the initial event. After the trauma, the brain remains in a vulnerable state, susceptible to further injury from ongoing inflammation, oxidative stress, and increased sensitivity to even mild stressors. This ongoing vulnerability makes it important for schools to provide academic, behavioral, social, emotional, and physical accommodations that support recovery. Students recovering from a brain injury often require modifications such as reduced workload, extended time, structured routines, and adjustments to sensory environments (e.g., reduced noise or softer lighting) to minimize additional stress and support recovery.

HB 3007 ensures that schools recognize and accommodate these ongoing challenges so that students can continue their education successfully - without incurring additional hardship on top of the physical injury itself. As both a professional and an individual who lives with lasting effects from my own traumatic brain injury, I strongly urge you to support HB 3007. This bill acknowledges the experiences of students with invisible injuries and provides needed protections to help them succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Ives, PhD  
School Psychologist