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Memorandum

To: All House Members

From: Representative Richard R. Stevenson *RRS*
8th Legislative District

Representative Tim Briggs *TB*
149th Legislative District

Date: January 18, 2012

Subject: Resolution proclaiming March 2012 as Brain Injury Awareness Month

We will soon be introducing a resolution to increase the awareness and to support and assist Pennsylvanians suffering from brain injuries.

An Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is any brain injury that occurs after birth. Generally speaking, ABIs are thought of according to their cause as either traumatic or non-traumatic. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) occurs when the brain is injured by any traumatic action, such as an auto accident, fall, striking by or against any object, or an assault. Non-traumatic Brain Injuries often occurs from events such as cerebral vascular accidents (CVA), anoxia, ingestion of toxic substances, brain tumors, etc.

In studying emergency department visits, hospitalization and death data the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that at least 1.4 million TBIs occur in the United States each year. Of these, 50,000 result in death, 235,000 require hospitalization, and 1,111,000 have emergency room visits. There are countless more who receive other medical care, or no care.

Of these, approximately 28% are from falls, 20% from motor vehicle accidents, 19% from being struck by or against an object, 13% "other", and 11% from assaults.

If you would like to cosponsor this important resolution, please contact Joann Drabenstadt at 717-783-6438 or via GroupWise at jdrabens@pahousegop.com.