

S. 0676 (Hannon) / A.1323 (Rosenthal)
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) supports S. 0676/A. 1323 which would assist caregivers in being better prepared to care for their loved ones upon discharge from a hospital.

The Brain Injury Association of New York State is the premier state-wide organization advocating on behalf of the thousands of individuals with brain injury and their families and promoting prevention. Through our information and resource clearinghouse, family support program, extensive public education and professional training programs, supports for our wounded warriors one in five of whom sustains a TBI, and extensive network of chapters and support groups, BIANYS is uniquely positioned to provide input and insight into the needs of this population.

On a daily basis, we support individuals whose lives have been permanently altered by a brain injury. Significant among the effects of the injury are the resulting cognitive and physical challenges that may profoundly impact on individual's ability to reintegrate into his/her family, community, employment or school. Caregivers provide day-to-day assistance to these individuals, particularly early on in recovery, but potentially for years to come. Yet, we hear repeatedly about caregivers who are not included in discharge planning or instructed in the specific actions needed to appropriately care for their loved ones.

BIANYS strongly supports steps that would enhance inclusion of caregivers in the discharge process and appropriate training in caregiving tasks. Proper recognition of the role that caregivers play in recovery and reintegration to the community is pivotal for the appropriate care of individuals with brain injury. This bill would ensure that caregivers are officially recognized as part of the recovery process, and provide them the assistance and input that they need to fulfill their new role.