

# Advocacy Day Talking Points

## New York State Statistics:

- Approximately 157 New Yorkers experience traumatic brain injuries per day
- Traumatic brain injuries result in more than 2,200 deaths, 17,000 hospitalizations, and 38,000 emergency department visits each year
- There are approximately 3,500 people on the TBI Waiver
- Over 7,000 New Yorkers are on the NHTD Waiver

**The cost of a brain injury in New York State can range from approximately \$100,000 to several million dollars, depending on the severity of the injury and a range of individual factors.**

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## LEGISLATIVE ASKS

**Continued Funding for the Continuum of Care for Neuro-Resource Facilitation:** For the past several years, the New York State Senate has included \$300,000 in the budget to support the Brain Injury Association of New York State's Continuum of Care for Neuro-Resource Facilitation (COC), helping to build a strong foundation of support for individuals living with brain injury. This program connects individuals and families to community-based services, providing trained professionals who help set goals, navigate complex systems, and coordinate care.

*This year, we are seeking \$1 million in the final budget to fully address the needs of individuals impacted by brain injury and their caretakers. Investing in the Continuum of Care is a practical, cost-effective way to ensure New Yorkers with brain injury receive the support they need to live safely and successfully in their communities.*

Funding will support:

- Expansion of resource facilitation staff to serve more individuals and reduce wait times
  - Improved tracking of unmet needs and service gaps to inform data-driven policy decisions
  - Identification and development of critical services that are currently unavailable or inaccessible
  - Stronger coordination of care to improve outcomes and reduce long-term costs
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**Update School Concussion Management and Response Protocols:** The 2011 Concussion Management Awareness Act established important protections to ensure students do not return to athletic activities too soon after a concussion and risk further injury. This legislation strengthens those protections by prioritizing a full return to the classroom before sports, expanding who can clear students to play, and broadening concussion management teams to better support student recovery. By supporting these updates, you will:

- Ensure students return to the classroom without limitations before resuming athletic activities, prioritizing learning and full recovery.
  - Authorize physician assistants and nurse practitioners to clear students for return to play, improving access to timely care.
  - Expand concussion management teams to include school principals, guidance counselors, teachers, and district medical directors for a more coordinated, student-centered approach.
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**Funding for Concussion Outreach Prevention Education (COPE):** The COPE program is a partnership between the Brain Injury Association of New York State and the New York State Athletic Trainers Association focused on preventing concussions and improving recognition of their signs and symptoms. It primarily serves K-12 schools, educating students, staff, and families on how concussions affect learning, athletics, and everyday social interactions. Continued funding will help:

- Prevent concussions and reduce their impact on students' ability to learn, participate in activities, and engage socially.
- Provide valuable education and resources to all New York schools, both public and private.
- Support outreach to schools, coaches, athletes, and families to promote safe recovery and a successful return to the classroom.