



## **HB 1682: Ensuring Access to Post-Acute NeuroRehabilitation for Pennsylvanians Experiencing Acquired Brain Injury**

More than **543,288 Pennsylvania children and adults** are living with an acquired brain injury (ABI). Approximately **138,600 Pennsylvanians** sustain a new traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year, which is the leading cause of ABI. Those who survive face a wide range of challenges—cognitive, behavioral, and emotional difficulties which if left untreated can result in life-altering disabilities.

**Brain injuries occur** indiscriminate of age, gender, socio-economic level, ethnicity, sexual preference, and affect not only the individual but also their families, their employers, and the entire community.

**This bill will ensure that commercial health insurance plans provide for Post-Acute NeuroRehabilitation, including Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT) and other brain injury treatments, related to treatment for brain injuries.** The effects of brain injury can include impaired thinking, memory, movement, sensation (e.g., vision or hearing), and/or emotional functioning (e.g., personality changes, depression). These impairments—which may result in loss of work and reliance on costly long term supports—rarely improve without appropriate and timely post-acute NeuroRehabilitation treatment. Without appropriate treatment, costs to the state/federal government show up in other forms, such as unemployment, increased disability income expense, increased healthcare expense including psychiatric treatment and substance misuse treatment, and in the worst cases, domestic violence, homelessness, and criminal offending.

**NeuroRehabilitation treatment increases a survivor's ability to live independently in the community, thereby lessening the need for more costly long-term supports and services.** Key services included in this legislation, which are already included in Medicaid Waiver plans in Pennsylvania, need to be provided under commercial health benefit plans:

- People who acquire a brain injury are frequently unable to access the evidence-based Post-Acute NeuroRehabilitation treatments that are necessary to continue the rehabilitation process following hospitalization
- Without access to these treatments, long term disability increases, putting extra burden on the state to provide long term services and supports.
- A recent Brandeis University study shows the state could save an average of 1.5 million per person on long term services and supports, if appropriate access is given early when needed.
- HB 1682 would assure this access for those covered by commercial health insurance by:
  - Assuring no lifetime limitation or unreasonable annual limitation on the quantity of post-acute NeuroRehabilitation treatments.
  - Providing adequate training to personnel responsible for pre- authorization of coverage or utilization review, including post-acute needs of individuals with brain injury, in order to prevent denial of coverage.
  - Covering individual practitioners and treatment facilities qualified to provide post-acute NeuroRehabilitation treatments.
  - Providing this coverage to people with all forms of ABI, including traumatic brain injury (injuries caused by force) and non-traumatic brain injury (brain injuries caused by tumor, stroke, aneurysm, anoxia, toxic exposure, etc.)

**This legislation will increase access to evidence-based, effective, post-acute Neurorehabilitation treatments** needed to help individuals with acquired brain injury increase their ability to live independently and to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

**Please support HB 1682 by letting your Legislators know how important this legislation is to you.**

## **HB 1682 Talking Points:**

- People who survive acquired brain injury face a wide range of challenges—cognitive, behavioral, and emotional difficulties which if left untreated can result in life-altering disabilities
- A brain injury can occur to any of us - regardless of age, gender, socio-economic level, ethnicity, sexual preference
- A brain injury affects not only the individual but also their families, their employers, and the entire community
- Post-Acute NeuroRehabilitation, including Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT) and other brain injury treatments, are proven by research to be able to help people improve their functioning, get back to work, and to have quality and meaningful lives
- People who acquire a brain injury are frequently unable to access the evidence-based Post-Acute NeuroRehabilitation treatments that are necessary to continue the rehabilitation process following hospitalization
- Without access to these treatments, long term disability increases, putting extra burden on the state to provide long term services and supports
- Hard working Pennsylvanians should not have to become impoverished in order to qualify for state-funded long-term services and supports
- A recent Brandeis University study shows the state could save an average of \$1.5 million per person on long term services and supports, if appropriate access to services is given early when needed
- This legislation will increase access to evidence-based, effective, post-acute Neurorehabilitation treatments needed to help individuals with acquired brain injury increase their ability to live independently and to lead productive and fulfilling lives
- **Please sign on and become a Co-Sponsor of HB 1682**