



BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS DAY 2019

WHO: Survivors, Family, Caretakers, Professionals, and Advocates

WHAT: Educate legislators about brain injury and the need for services

WHEN: January 30, 2019

WHERE: You have 2 ways you can participate!

- At the General Assembly Building - Download the resources you'll need our Parking and Directions map [here](#)
- Online – Visit our website and Facebook page to let us know you're joining us virtually!

WHY: **28,000 Virginians sustain a brain injury every year!** With that, the need for a more substantial budget is rising. It's time for our elected officials to step up to prioritize brain injury funding. Funding that is crucial for Virginians like Jodi who fell on the ice skating rink at her son's birthday party and sustained a significant brain injury, or Mark who fell off a ladder while painting and sustained a severe concussion. Through our online platforms and voices, let's make it known that we are going to be watching as this year's budget is voted on!

For more information on the budget requests, please find attached our needs statement.

Awareness Day Toolkit Content

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How Can You Make a Difference?

Find the Capitol phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address for your Virginia Delegate and Senator by entering your address at:

<http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> (use the “e-mail” and “more info” links for email and mailing address).

- **MAKE A VISIT:** Let the receptionist know you live in the legislator’s district, and would like to see him or her on January 30th; if he or she is not available, ask to set up an appointment with the legislative aide.
- **MAKE A PHONE CALL:** Your call will likely be answered by the legislator’s secretary. Use this script to leave a message with the secretary or ask for the legislator’s aide:

Delegate: Hi. My name is (name) and I am a constituent of (Delegate name). I am calling to ask for the Delegate’s support of Item #329 8h to support in-state neurobehavioral care, Item #329 12h to include full-time state funded brain injury services program contractors in the Appropriations Act, and House Bill item #329 9h to provide specialized community based case management services to people who are disabled because of a brain injury. This is important to me because (insert your story or simple reasoning). Please convey my request to Delegate (name). I will be following these budget amendments closely. Thank you for your assistance.

Senator: Hi. My name is (name) and I am a constituent of (Senator name). I am calling to ask for the Senator’s support of Item #329 9s to support in-state neurobehavioral care, Item #474 11s to include full-time state funded brain injury services program contractors in the Appropriations Act, and item #329 8s to provide specialized community based case management services to people who are disabled because of a brain injury. This is important to me because (insert you story or simple reasoning). Please convey my request to Senator (name). I will be following these budget amendments closely. Thank you for your assistance.

TO SEND AN E-MAIL OR LETTER BY MAIL: Use the phone call script (above) to assist you in drafting your e-mail or letter.



Social Media Information

- **Post it!**

Facebook - Find us on Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/303063457003648/>

- ***Share our event to your Timeline.*** Forward the event to your Virginia Delegate's and Senator's Facebook pages! Look up your Delegate's and Senator's Facebook pages by searching for their names in Facebook.
- ***To go a step further, take a picture of you, your family, and friends participating and share it on your Facebook page!***
Before you post your picture, click "Feeling/Activity," then "Supporting," and type "Brain Injury Association of Virginia!" Share your picture to your Virginia Delegate's and Senator's Facebook pages (if they have them)!

Instagram - Find us on Instagram by searching @braininjuryassociationva. There, you can create your own post or use the prepared graphic on the next page! Make sure you tag your friends and family to encourage them to be a part of this important day!

- **Tweet it!**

Let's Tweet as loud as we can! Mention us @biavirginia to let us know you're joining us!

- Follow your Virginia Delegate and Senator and let them know it's time to prioritize brain injury funding!
- Create your own message, or use: *"28,000. That's the number of Virginians who sustain brain injuries every year! It's time to prioritize Brain Injury funding! #BIAwareness #BIFundingMatters"*



GRAPHICS

Looking for a cool graphic to share with your post or tweet? Feel free to use this! Visit www.biav.net/awareness-day-2019 to save the image to upload!

