Brain Injury Association of Virginia Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers

2023 Legislative Needs Statement

**WHAT:**

*$570,000 to expand specialized community based brain injury case management services*

**PATRONS AND ITEM NUMBERS:**

**WHY:**

The Virginia Department of Health states approximately 28,000 Virginians sustain a brain injury each year. According to estimates from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, more than 302,000 Virginians are disabled as a result of brain injury. In FY22, 8 state funded programs with 21 case managers were able to meet the case management needs of XXX people with brain injury; roughly X% of those with moderate to severe brain injury who would benefit from those services.

This funding would facilitate the hiring of an additional 6 case managers to serve approximately 300 Virginians with moderate to severe injury, who are estimated to be disabled as a result of the injury and who reside in unserved and underserved regions of the state.Brain injury case management programs are moving toward a hybrid model, in which all staff will be trained to serve children and adults. There is no area of the Commonwealth that has sufficient staffing to serve adults and children with brain injury in their respective service areas, and this funding would be used to expand services and build capacity.

Several programs have waiting lists for Case Management services, and programs are struggling to meet existing demand in the face of insufficient funding. The COVID pandemic and the opioid epidemic are both known to be risk factors for brain injury and the confluence of these events is expected to drive the demand for this service and the need for additional brain injury support to all-time highs.

**HOW:**

Through a DARS Appropriation and existing contract processes, community based brain injury case management services would be expanded throughout Virginia.