



Press Release

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California Resolution Proclaims March Brain Injury Awareness Month

Sacramento, CA, March 15, 2007 – The California Senate today passed SCR 12 (Alquist) by a vote of 37-0 designating March as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the State of California. With the Bill, public officials and the citizens of California are encouraged to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs designed to raise awareness about the symptoms of, and ways of preventing, all forms of brain injury.

“Brain injury is among the most traumatic conditions that any Californian can have”, said Dr. Mark J. Ashley, Board Chairman of the California Brain Injury Association (CALBIA). “We are very pleased that the State of California has recognized the importance of brain injury and the need for prevention and appropriate treatment for the citizens of California. We especially wish to thank Senator Elaine Alquist (D-San Jose) Chair of the Senate Human Services and Senate Budget Sub Committee on Health and Human Services for her leadership in authoring and promoting this Bill”.

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1.4 million Americans sustain some form of brain injury (BI) each year, and 50,000 of those individuals die as a result of these injuries. In California alone, there are 22,400 reported Brain Injuries per year. Additionally, over 10 million Americans are currently living with the effects of Brain Injury, including those with diagnoses of stroke, aneurysm, anoxia and toxic exposure.

The costs relating to brain injury are staggering and individuals with severe brain injury typically face life-long disabilities, even with rehabilitation. The CDC estimates that cumulative costs in the United States exceed \$60 billion annually.

About the California Brain Injury Association

The California Brain Injury Association (CALBIA) was formed in 2005 to work with the people of California to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy. As a State Affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), the CALBIA represents all Californians who live with a lifelong disability as a result of brain injury, as well as their families, and the researchers, clinicians and professionals who provide treatment and long term care services.

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