

Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6615, Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2018

FLOOR SITUATION

On Wednesday, December 19, 2018, the House will consider whether to concur in the [Senate Amendment to H.R. 6615](#), Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, under suspension of the rules. This bill was introduced on July 26 6, 2018 by Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Additionally, this bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent vote on December 18, 2018.

SUMMARY

The Senate Amendment to H.R. 6615 would reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury program, including grants to states through the Administration for Community Living and data collection and analysis through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BACKGROUND

The National Concussion Surveillance System will be able to accurately determine how many Americans (children and adults) get a concussion each year, and determine what caused the injury. In addition, the results of a full-scale national system would inform and equip leaders within communities, states, and across America by:¹

- Providing the first national estimates of sports-related concussions among youth that occur both in, and outside of organized sports;
- Monitoring trends to understand whether the number of concussions is increasing or decreasing, and assessing the effectiveness of prevention efforts;
- Giving insight to health care providers and hospitals about where patients seek care for concussion and recovery needs; and
- Creating—for the first time ever—true national estimates of the number of people living with a disability caused by a brain injury.

¹ See [CDC.gov](#).

The National Concussion Surveillance System will help improve the prevention, care, and recovery efforts underway at CDC and among groups invested in helping those who experienced a TBI.²

According to the bill sponsor, “I am proud to introduce this critical bipartisan, bicameral reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act,” said Rep. Pascrell, co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. “For the last 18 years, I have fought to advance research and treatment for TBI because our athletes on the ballfield and our brave soldiers on the battlefield deserve more. While we have a long way to go, the advances in technology since Congress first started having this conversation can bring us closer to a world where no one must endure the consequences of a brain injury. This goal will take the right investments and partnerships, and this legislation does just that. For the first time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be able to implement a study to see how many people, both young and old, have sustained a brain injury, which will give us critical insight into this problem. This new TBI Act also modernizes how the government oversees TBI research, treatment, and prevention. And it provides an adjustment to account for the long overdue increase in funding for TBI that I fought to pass in the FY 2018 Omnibus last year.”³

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not currently available.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [Ryan Hofmann](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee.

² Id.

³ See Rep. Pascrell’s Press Release, “[Pascrell, Rooney, Hatch, and Casey Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization](#),” November 27, 2018.