



Connecticut's Partner in Brain Injury Prevention & Recovery since 1982

Legislative Priorities 2023

The **Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with brain injuries, their families, and caregivers while increasing awareness of brain injury and its prevention.

Every day, constituents in our community are directly affected by brain injury. Most recent data from the CT Department of Health indicates that Connecticut alone had over 36,000 ED visits and 2,800 hospitalizations resulting from traumatic brain injury (TBI) in 2015. Nationally, TBI occurs more than six times as often as MS, spinal cord injury, HIV/AIDS, and breast cancer combined, affecting 2.5 million people nationwide. Each year, 560,000 children in the United States sustain a TBI. Factor in other kinds of acquired brain injury, including those caused by stroke, oxygen deprivation, and drug or alcohol abuse, and the statistics are even more alarming.

Proposed Bills BIAC supports this session include:

[HB 6659](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR. To implement the Governor's Budget Recommendations. [Click here for BIAC Testimony](#)

[HB 6561](#): AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES. To establish a task force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletics.

[HB6598](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSIDERATION OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE CAUSED BY A PERSON'S FAILURE TO WEAR A SEAT SAFETY BELT. To permit consideration of a person's failure to wear a seat safety belt in violation of section 14-100a of the general statutes as contributory negligence in a civil action.

[HB 6612](#): AN ACT CONCERNING NONPROFIT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDERS. To ensure nonprofit health and human services providers contracting with state agencies may retain savings realized from contracted amounts and receive adequate compensation.

[SB 208](#): AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO LOW-COST OR FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. To expand daily access to low-cost or free transportation throughout the state for persons with disabilities to improve their quality of life and facilitate their ability to work.

[SB 420](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. To provide additional employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

SB1082: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING A REDUCTION IN BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMITS FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING AND BOATING. To implement recommendations of the Department of Transportation concerning (1) lowering the blood alcohol content for driving and boating under the influence from eight-hundredths to five-hundredths of one per cent of alcohol, by weight. [Click here for BIAC Testimony.](#)

Brain injuries are not just a medical issue. A brain injury can affect every aspect of a person's life (e.g., legal, education, employment, social and family relationships, emotional health, and mobility). BIAC is concerned with issues that remain significant barriers to individuals with disabilities in Connecticut, which continues to lag behind many states in its services for individuals with brain injuries. For these reasons, we support legislative bills which increase people's access to transportation, safe, affordable, and accessible housing in the communities of their choice, and adequate health care at affordable costs. We oppose legislation that negatively impacts individuals with disabilities and those who have low income.

If you have any questions regarding any of these issues, please contact BIAC at 860-219-0291 or jpeters@biact.org

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