

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

BUTTERFIELD INTRODUCES PEDIATRIC ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY ACT ALONG WITH OVER 30 CO-SPONSORS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman G.K. Butterfield (NC-1st) introduced “The PABI Act of 2009” today, along with over 30 original co-sponsors (see full list below).

PABI is the number one cause of death and disability for children and young adults up to age 25 in the United States.

“The PABI Act of 2009” is a concurrent resolution recognizing that fact and endorsing the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation's (SJBFB) National PABI Plan which creates a seamless, standardized, evidence-based system of care, universally accessible for children and young adults regardless of where they live in the nation. The PABI Plan is the first and only national plan written by the leading experts in the country to address the entire continuum of care for children and young adults with brain injuries.

Congressman Butterfield stated, “The full implementation of the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan will help millions of children and young adults and their families as well as save billions of dollars of taxpayer money.”

PABI consists of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) with causes such as motor vehicle accidents, blast injuries from war, falls, sports concussions, assaults/child abuse, gunshot wounds, being struck by an object, or non-motor vehicle bicycle accidents, as well as non-traumatic causes including strokes, brain tumors, meningitis, insufficient oxygen, poisoning, ischemia and substance abuse.

Butterfield added, “In addition, since most adolescent brains do not mature until age 25, many of the military veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with TBI are actually considered PTBI.”

“There are over three million new cases each year in the United States alone, making PABI a national health epidemic,” stated Patrick Donohue, Founder of the SJBFB and father to 4-year-old Sarah Jane Donohue.

Sarah Jane was violently shaken by her baby nurse when she was five days old, causing a severe brain injury and thrusting Donohue into the tumultuous world of pediatric brain injury. Donohue launched the SJBFB in October 2007 due to the lack of available evidence-based data on PABI.

He continued, “The fact that so many of these injuries go unreported and undiagnosed makes the epidemic that much worse since the public has a lack of awareness and understanding of brain injury.” According to the World Health Organization (WHO), children are 20 times more likely to die from PTBI than from asthma and 38 times more likely to die than from cystic fibrosis. The WHO also reported in 2008 there were twice as many children who received a brain injury than those who received stitches. Donohue added, “Brain injury in children also has a much higher incidence rate than autism – there have only been 560,000 total diagnosed cases of autism, compared to the millions of new brain injuries each year.”

“I am very excited about the introduction and implementation of The PABI Act of 2009. This will lead to improved diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and support for children and young adults affected by Traumatic Brain Injuries,” said Dr. Shannon Smith, assistant professor of pediatrics at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children in Jackson, Mississippi.

Smith is on the National Advisory Board of the SJBFB and her institution will serve as the SJBFB's Regional State Lead Center for rural and telehealth.

The SJBFB's 52 State Lead Centers – one in every state plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico – will work together and with other institutions in their states to implement the PABI Plan. Each State Lead Center will be responsible for developing a statewide master plan for their state to address all seven categories of care, case management for PA/TBI families and facilitating efforts in their designated Regional Category of Care.

For more information on the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation or to read the entire 104-page National PABI Plan in its entirety, visit www.TheBrainProject.org, call (212) 201-0599 or email Jennipher@TheBrainProject.org.

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"PABI Act of 2009" – Members of Congress who are Original Co-Sponsors

Jo Bonner	AL
Raul Grijalva	AZ
Roybal-Allard	CA
John Salazar	CO
Corrine Brown	FL
Lincoln Diaz-Bartlett	FL
Alcee Hastings	FL
Kendrick Meek	FL
John Lewis	GA
Mazie Hirono	HI
Dave Loebsack	IA
Dennis Moore	KS
Mike Michaud	ME
Tim Walz	MN
Russ Carnahan	MO
G. K. Butterfield	NC
Leonard Lance	NJ
Frank LoBiondo	NJ
Bill Pascrell	NJ
Donald Payne	NJ
Steven Rothman	NJ
Steve Isreal	NY
Carolyn Maloney	NY
Eric Massa	NY
Kurt Schrader	OR
Murphy, Tim	PA
John Murtha	PA
Patrick Kennedy	RI

Brown, Henry	SC
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin	SD
Marsha Blackburn	TN
Steve Cohen	TN
Henry Cuellar	TX
Jim Moran	VA
Tammy Baldwin	WI
James McGovern	MA

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://info.umc.edu/>.