



Brain Injury Alliance

C O L O R A D O

OFFICERS

Melissa Winthers
President

Dannis Schanel
Past President

Mark Belfance
Treasurer

Cheryl Catsoulis
President - Elect

Julia Cowan
Secretary

3/31/15

Members of the Public Healthcare and Human Services Committee,

The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado is in support of HB 1233 that creates a Respite Care Task Force. Approximately 500,000 individuals are living with the effects of a brain injury in Colorado. The majority of the moderate to severely injured live full-time with their family members whether it be their spouse, parents or children. These caregivers work twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week to ensure their loved ones have the support and tools they need to live their lives to the fullest.

It is important that these devoted caregivers are able, periodically to take time to rejuvenate and also live their own lives to the fullest possible under the stressful circumstances. Not only is it important that caregivers are able to access reliable and affordable respite care services but they must also trust the individuals who are caring for their loved one to meet their specific and individual needs.

We believe that creating this task force to carefully study the current availability of respite care services in Colorado and subsequently increase the availability of respite care is a positive step towards supporting the many caregivers who have dedicated their lives to a loved one who has suffered a serious brain injury.

We urge committee members to support this bill.

Regards,

Gavin Attwood
CEO
Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Biggs Arnold

Craig Eliot

Brenda Heimbach

Norine Hemphill

Bill Levis

Robyn A. Truby

Ken Rich

Dayna Sloane

Dan Sloane

General Counsel

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Gavin Attwood

1385 S. Colorado Blvd.

Suite A606

Denver, CO 80222

OFFICE 303.355.9969

TOLL FREE 800.955.2443

FAX 303.355.9968

info@BIAColorado.org

BIAColorado.org

The Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado is the go-to resource for help and services for survivors of an injury to the brain, their families and providers.