Dear Senator/Representative (Last Name),

I am a constituent and writing to you because it is time for Ohio to address the shortage of services for individuals with brain injury. 1.9 million adult Ohioans have sustained a traumatic brain injury in their lifetime. That is 1 in 4 Ohioans. The current level of state supported funding to provide community- based brain injury services is $550,000 or 4 cents per resident of Ohio.

While we are not investing in services for survivors, the state is paying the cost. Ohio brain injury survivors are living with brain injury-related disabilities at a cost of more than $6 billion (in 2017 dollars) in medical expenses and lost wages. We can reduce these indirect costs by investing in services that help individuals early in the rehabilitation process to get appropriate care and support.

I am asking you to support an increase in funding for brain injury services because (this is where you tell your story…tell them why you care. Tell your survivor/caregiver story, and what these services would have meant to you if they existed during your journey. Talk about a brain injury program or service that you have used and why it was helpful.).

This year, we are asking for an increase to $1.7 million dollars which will provide new service and expansion of current services including:

* Peer Support Programming
* Transition Coordination to assist individuals returning to the community.
* Health and Wellness programming for survivors and caregivers.

Thank you for taking a moment to consider my comments. If you have any questions or would like more information about the points I have raised, feel free to contact the Brain Injury Association of Ohio at help@biaoh.org.

Sincerely,

Your Name