November 29, 2011

The Honorable Leonard Lance
US House of Representatives
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lance:

On behalf of family caregivers across the nation who are caring for loved ones with brain injuries, Family Caregiver Alliance supports the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan (PABI) Act of 2011 (H.R. 2600).

Family Caregiver Alliance was established in 1977 as the first community-based nonprofit organization in the country to address the needs of families and friends providing long-term care at home. Through our work with family caregivers, we see first-hand the enormous financial, emotional, psychological, and health impacts of caregiving for a loved one with a brain injury. We applaud the four facets of the plan, including preventing TBI; maximizing the child’s recovery after a TBI and supporting their family through the recovery process; improving the capacity of schools and rehabilitation centers to deliver services and support; and the use of research to better understand the effects of TBI’s on the brain, the determinants of recovery, and the most effective interventions for improving outcomes.

In addition to benefiting children with head injuries, the National PABI Plan would be especially beneficial for veterans (and their family caregivers) with head injuries, one of the most common injuries experienced by U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Kelly
Executive Director