



111 Michigan Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20010-2970

July 25, 2011

The Honorable Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lance:

On behalf of Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, thank you for your leadership in introducing HR 2600, the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (PABI) Plan Act. As a national leader in mild traumatic brain injury research, treatment and advocacy, Children's National is pleased to support this important legislation.

Founded in 1870, Children's National Medical Center is a 303 bed, academic medical center with eight outpatient centers in DC, Maryland and Virginia, seven primary care health centers in DC, and a state-of-the-art pediatric research institute. Children's National is also home to the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program, a nationally recognized program in the vanguard of education, training, research, and clinical service of sport-related concussions in youth.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 765,000 American youth aged 25 and younger enter an emergency department every year with a new traumatic brain injury. More than 80,000 are hospitalized and more than 11,000 die annually. The availability of clinical, educational and rehabilitative resources for these young people shouldn't vary based on urban versus rural settings, school district, or other arbitrary factor. HR 2600 will fund a seven-year initiative to develop a seamless, standardized, evidence-based system of care that is universally accessible for the millions of families who have a child or young adult suffering from the leading cause of death and disability for American youth: brain injury.

HR 2600 establishes a national network of 52 State Lead Centers of Excellence with the responsibility of implementing the PABI Plan. Among other areas, the legislation focuses on individuals with a "mild" traumatic brain injury, which accounts for more than 80 percent of brain injuries each year, commonly referred to as concussions. For example, the 52 State Lead Centers would help children suffering from sports-related injuries by providing additional information, resources and care.



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I again offer our sincere appreciation to you and your staff for your leadership and commitment to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance as you shepherd this bill through Congress.

Sincerely,



Peter Holbrook, MD
Interim President & CEO
Chief Medical Officer

cc: Jeff Last, Office of Congressman Lance
Gerry Gioia, PhD, Division Chief, Neuropsychology, Children's National