



STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**5.3 Million Americans Are Living with Brain Injury**

*Dover, DE* – Every March, the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) leads the nation in recognizing Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge and support the millions of Americans impacted by brain injury. The theme for the 2019-2020 awareness campaign is **Change Your Mind**.

“Continuing to support Delaware citizens and their families affected by a brain injury is crucial to their well-being and individual growth. In our State, we are very fortunate to have the Delaware State Council for Persons with Disabilities leading this important work all year long,” said Robert M. Coupe, Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security.

Every nine seconds, someone in the United States sustains a brain injury. Estimates indicate that 5.3 million Americans live with brain injury-related disabilities at a cost exceeding \$82 billion annually.

The **Change Your Mind** campaign provides a platform for changing common misconceptions about the injury; educating the public on the incidence of brain injury, the needs of individuals who are injured and their families; and offers tools and information for anyone to advocate for access to care after brain injury. Information on Brain Injury Awareness Month, including educational material and downloadable collateral, is available at [www.biausa.org/ChangeYourMind](http://www.biausa.org/ChangeYourMind).

Individuals in need of information, resources, and support after brain injury may speak with a brain injury expert by contacting BIAA’s **National Brain Injury Information Center (NBIIIC)** at 1-800-444-6443.

“People living with brain injuries want the same things we all want – a good job, someone to love, a comfortable home, and fun in their lives,” commented Susan H. Connors, President and

CEO of the Brain Injury Association of America. “They want to be defined by who they are as people, not by their injuries.”

The Brain Injury Association of America is the country’s oldest and largest nationwide brain injury advocacy organization. Our mission is to advance awareness, research, treatment, and education and to improve the quality of life for *all* people affected by brain injury. We are dedicated to increasing access to quality health care and raising awareness and understanding of brain injury.

#### *About Delaware’s Brain Injury Committee*

Delaware’s Brain Injury Committee (BIC) is legislatively mandated by [Title 29, Chapter 82, §8210 \(b\)\(10\) c.](#) to facilitate prevention and centralized interdisciplinary planning, assessment and an improved service delivery system for individuals with brain injuries. Learn more about traumatic brain injury, brain injury resources, rehabilitation, financial assistance and brain injury support groups at: <https://scpd.delaware.gov/brainInjury.shtml>.

Concussions ARE brain injuries! Learn more about Delaware’s Concussion Protection in Youth Athletic Activities Act (CPYAAA) and obtain information on concussion signs, symptoms, what to watch for, possible symptoms 24 to 48 hours after a concussion, a week after a concussion and long-term symptoms following a concussion. Download a copy of the **Parent/Player Concussion Information Form** required by Delaware law [Title 16, Chapter 30, Section 3001L](#) for non-scholastic athletes and their parents to review and sign **prior to participation** in covered activities sponsored by clubs, leagues or associations e.g. Little League, Pop Warner Football, etc. Learn about the training required by Delaware law for coaches and officials and view resource links on concussions at: <https://scpd.delaware.gov/concussion.shtml>.

Read brain injury survivor stories or **share your own brain injury survivor story** at: <https://scpd.delaware.gov/frmYourStory.shtml>.

For additional information, contact John McNeal, Director of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) by phone at 302-739-3620 or by email at [SCPDGeneralMailbox@delaware.gov](mailto:SCPDGeneralMailbox@delaware.gov).

#CHANGEYOURMIND

