



For Immediate Release  
03/18/19

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### **MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH: 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 2018-2019 awareness campaign is **Change Your Mind**.

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.

“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 **Change Your Mind** campaign provides a platform for changing common misconceptions about the injury; educating the public on the incidence of brain injury and 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.

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*About the Brain Injury Association of America, the State Council for Persons with Disabilities, and Delaware’s Traumatic Brain Injury Fund:*

*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.*

*The State Council for Persons with Disabilities unites in one Council, disability advocates and State agency policy makers to ensure that individuals with disabilities are empowered to become fully integrated within the community. The Council is charged under Title 29, Chapter 82, §8210 b. (10) of the Delaware Code with serving as the primary brain injury council for the State of Delaware. In furtherance of this role, the Council maintains a standing Brain Injury Committee to facilitate prevention and centralized interdisciplinary planning, assessment and an improved service delivery system for individuals with brain injury and a TBI Fund to help Delawareans with Traumatic Brain Injuries obtain items not paid by their healthcare insurance. Learn more by visiting <https://scpd.delaware.gov/committees.shtml> and <https://scpd.delaware.gov/brain-injury-funds.shtml>.*