

This is a sample of a personal submission to the Standing Committee on Health to be sent via **EMAIL**.

Standing Committee on Health (HESA)

Email to HESA@parl.gc.ca

(When sending via email, your address and phone number should be in the body of the email, not here. Only put here IF sending by regular post)

July 2, 2024

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Health,

Re: Support for Bill C-277 - An Act to establish a national strategy on brain injuries

Note: Black and white photos are optional – do not send colour



I am writing to express my strong support for Bill C-277, the National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act. As a **survivor** of a brain injury, I have personally experienced the profound impact that brain injuries can have on individuals and their families. I believe that this bill is essential for improving the prevention, treatment, and support services available to Canadians affected by brain injuries.

My injury occurred in July of 1993 when the minivan I was a passenger in was struck by a semi. At the time I was an elementary school teacher nearing the end of obtaining a Masters Degree in Educational Administration.

The accident left me in a coma for approximately three weeks after which I was moved to a rehabilitation centre where I had to relearn the mechanics of walking and basic self care. I remained there for three months, released to return as an outpatient for approximately four years. It was a long journey which not only changed my life but those of my young children and my spouse.

Going back to work was not available due to my multi deficits so I had to accept my new normal. I found new hope in survivor support groups which I attended and now facilitate once a week. I look normal, and I wake up each morning happy to be alive. I am easily fatigued, have some lingering anxiety issues and have difficulty learning new things. I am one of the lucky ones. My family support group was strong, this is not always the case.

Brain injuries can have devastating and long-lasting effects, often requiring extensive medical care, rehabilitation, and ongoing support. Despite the significant burden these injuries place on individuals and the healthcare system, there is currently no comprehensive national strategy in

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place to address these challenges. This bill is a crucial step towards filling that gap and ensuring that all Canadians have access to the care and resources they need.

I urge the members of the Health Committee to consider the following key points in support of this bill:

1. **Establishment of a National Strategy:** The creation of a national strategy will provide a unified framework for addressing brain injuries. This will help ensure consistency in the quality of care across the country and facilitate the sharing of best practices and resources.
2. **Collaboration and Coordination:** The bill emphasizes the importance of collaboration between federal, provincial, and territorial governments, as well as with healthcare providers, researchers, and advocacy groups. This collaborative approach is essential for addressing the complex and multifaceted nature of brain injuries.
3. **Education and Awareness:** Enhancing education and awareness about brain injuries among healthcare professionals, caregivers, and the general public is vital for early recognition, appropriate response, and better outcomes. This bill will help promote the necessary knowledge and understanding to reduce the incidence and severity of brain injuries.

In conclusion, passing Bill C-277 will mark a significant advancement in the support and care for individuals affected by brain injuries in Canada. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and help ensure its swift passage through the legislative process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Barb L. Butler

Cc: Michael Kram, MP michael.kram@parl.gc.ca