

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on "A Review of Efforts to Prevent and Treat
Traumatic Brain Injury"
March 19, 2012
(As prepared for delivery)

According to a recent report from the CDC, at least 1.7 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury each year. We don't have to look far to see the profound effects of a major TBI. Children injured by caretakers or car accidents, athletes impaired by multiple concussions, our soldiers disabled from war, and even one of our colleagues wounded at a constituent event.

With efforts being undertaken at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and several agencies at the Department of Health and Human Services, it is incumbent on us to examine these activities so they work in a coordinated, efficient manner. I proudly serve on the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force and encourage bipartisan support for TBI research and rehabilitation. With that support, I am confident that the committee will make even greater strides to help patients living with the aftermath of TBI.

I want to extend a warm welcome to the families attending today's hearing as part of Brain Injury Awareness Month. And, I look forward to the testimony being presented to help us provide them with help and hope.

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