



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI APPLAUDS PRESIDENT SIGNING BILL TO TREAT
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY***

Washington, D.C. –U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today cheered as President Bush signed into law legislation to help treat Americans, including returning soldiers, living with traumatic brain injury (TBI).

“Each year, approximately 1.5 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury, causing significant, often lifelong and sometimes fatal, disability and discomfort,” Enzi said. “The ‘Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act’ will boost programs to help people live with the effects of a traumatic brain injury. I am pleased that the President has signed this important bill into law.”

The “Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act,” S. 793, which the Senate passed unanimously, will establish a study through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury, identify common therapeutic interventions, and develop rehabilitation guidelines. It reauthorizes grant programs to coordinate TBI services, and continues valuable research programs conducted by the NIH. The bill will assist wounded warriors returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially as they return to civilian life.

Enzi, a co-sponsor of the bill, added: “The costs associated with having a TBI are high, and this legislation helps give people access to the therapies, interventions, community services, and supports that are needed.”

According to the CDC, of the 1.5 million Americans who sustain a traumatic TBI each year, around 50,000 die and another 80,000 to 90,000 experience long-term or lifelong disabilities as a result. Among children between birth and age 14, there are approximately 475,000 TBIs a year, resulting in some of the highest numbers of injuries among children under the age of five.

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