



# BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA

PREVENTION · EDUCATION · ADVOCACY

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EXHIBIT 2  
DATE Jan 27, 09  
HB 2

January 27, 2009

Madame Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Kristen Morgan (M O R G A N) and I am the program director for the Brain Injury Association of Montana. As you know, brain injury is being called "the signature wound" of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Many of our soldiers will have unrecognized brain injury. Even mild and moderate brain injury can have a huge impact on brain function and personality.

Upon returning home to Montana, many of these soldiers will be turning to local mental health professionals for help with mood disorders and cognitive impairments.

According to the 2008 legislative mental health report, there is training available through the military at no charge to mental health professionals; but there are no funds to help pay the costs of travel or a per diem. The report recommends funding the training of our mental health professionals. Please consider including funding for this specialized training.

A copy of the legislative mental health study recommendation is attached to my testimony.

Sincerely,

*Kristen Morgan*

Kristen Morgan, MSW  
Program Director  
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