

3/19/2013

Dear members of our legislation,

My name is Joan Miller and I am a constituent from State Senate District 23 & Representative District 46 in Portland OR.

Thirteen years ago, June 12th 1999 I suffered a TBI at the hands of a hit and run drink driver while in Ogden UT at a business conference. When my body and mind was in the beginning stages of healing, I made a promise to myself and all others who have endured a TBI that I would do my best to find survivors and family support as my husband; family & I were blazing a new life journey. That came in my co-founding a survivor led brain injury support, referral, and resource organization called BIRRDsong. BIRRD is an acronym standing for Brian Injury information Referral & Resource Development. www.birrdsong.org

Providing support & resources and prevention of getting this life changing injury was my passion and I was determined to do whatever it took to do just that. I was blessed with a team of people who were willing to put their 'feet on the street' joining me in this pursuit. I and this fabulous ever growing team of support continue to work tirelessly however sadly our jobs will never end. There will always people sustain TBI in accidents, falls, fights or in my case in a car crash by a person making a very bad choice. That choice, to drink and drive.

I'm writing this letter to you today to ask your help. Senate Bill 721 needs the focus and attention of the Oregon legislature and needs to be passed in order to prevent our young athletes, our future, from the horrific aftermath of a TBI. ALL coaches and / or persons in charge of these athletes in any and all sports need to be able to spot concussion, pull the player until proper evaluation is done saving him or her from a future anything less than healthy.

Thank you for time, I feel certain you will act on this letter responsibly as you wouldn't want a family member of yours to suffer a TBI when knowledge could have made it preventable.

With respect,

Joan Miller



Co-founder of BIRRDsong & Dedicated Volunteer / Speaker with Oregon Impact

www.oregonimpact.org

321 NE 92nd Place

Portland OR 97220

503-251-5821-H

503-969-1660-H