

I am the mother of a 16 year old son, Ryan, who suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury at Lake Tahoe in 1998. Our son was hospitalized for 361 days in an acute Brain Injury Rehab hospital. I cannot explain the devastation our family suffered during that time, but Ryan fought with everything he had to survive while he layed comatose for four months. And then the real work began. Sadly, he was not able to return to high school, and literally there was a ripple effect in the community because of his accident with his peers, and beyond.

We were in Reno when we first were introduced to the Head Injury Association of Northern Nevada, HIANN. And since then our family has been involved in meeting others who suffer from Head trauma and have learned so much. Currently my husband & I are the VP & President of the organization, servings approximately 100 members. "HIANN's Mission is the voice of advocacy for brain injury survivors, their families and caregivers in the Greater Northern Nevada area. Our mission is to help survivors put their lives back together Piece by piece through support, empowerment, resources, public awareness, education, social events and youth prevention programs."

Not every person suffering head trauma gets the OPPORTUNITY to return to school. But those that do deserve more than is currently allowed as I have learned from many who have tried. Stella Thornton has proposed a wonderful bill to show schools,

parents and children what is needed to help Survivors succeed to their upmost ability. Hopefully most of you will not experience the struggle a Survivor has to endure to find their new normal. Recovery from Brain Injury can be lifelong, and shouldn't our education system contribute instead of minimize their learning.

Thank you-

Alison Hume