



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor

September 30, 2005

On behalf of Oregonians, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you attending the Third Annual Pacific Northwest Brain Injury Conference. Please accept my deep appreciation for all the work you have done and continue to do to improve the treatment of those with brain injuries and to raise public awareness of this serious, but often-overlooked condition.

You are well aware of the human toll that results from traumatic brain injury. In our state alone, as many as 3,000 people are hospitalized each year with brain injuries and many of those will suffer permanent disabilities.

Those of you who have worked so hard for so long understand the challenges brain-injured individuals face when it comes to rehabilitation, housing, jobs, and finding and maintaining the networks of friends, families and professionals needed to cope with day-to-day life.

The good news is that we are making strides in Oregon. I recently signed legislation that includes brain injuries as a special education covered service. Furthermore, our Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force continues to address this issue by making recommendations on a coordinated state agency response that focuses on the needs of those with brain injuries.

You are in the best position to help Oregonians and the nation understand what still needs to be done to address this important issue.

Thank you for efforts and welcome to Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore R. Kulongoski".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor