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## **National and Statewide Groups Cheer As Rep. Gallego Joins Task Force**

*Advocates Hope Gallego Will Play Pivotal Role in Assisting Veterans and All Impacted by Traumatic Brain Injury*

Washington, D.C.- A familiar face from Arizona has joined a congressional task force to vet and advocate for legislation to improve life for those living with traumatic brain injury. Congressman Gallego's office announce that he has joined the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. "Brain injury impacts over 50,000 Arizona residents every year," said Representative Gallego from his Washington D.C. office. "I look forward to working on important legislation impacting veterans, caregivers, brain injury survivors, neuro professionals, and many of the residents of the seventh district while serving on the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force."

The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona is thrilled that Congressman Gallego has lent his time and talents to this worthy cause. "When my son was injured and nearly died because of a brain injury from falling down the stairs while entering the subway in Boston, we had to Google traumatic brain injury because we had no idea what it was and the lifechanging journey that we had just begun," said Tom Nielsen, Board Chair of the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona. "I know there are a million other families out there like mine, many in the Congressman's district, and we are so thankful for his leadership on this issue."

BIAAZ is a chartered affiliate of the United States Brain Injury Alliance (USBIA). USBIA leadership expressed similar enthusiasm noting that Congressman Gallego and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force is a good and practical fit. "USBIA is pleased that Congressman Gallego has joined the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force," said Tom Grady, the Chair of the USBIA Public Policy Committee. "I am

confident that his advocacy for Veterans issues can be applied toward advocacy of Veterans with brain injury; a priority of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.”

BIAAZ would also like to thank the task for co-chairs, Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey and Congressman Thomas J. Rooney of Florida for their continued work on this issue. The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force was formed by Pascrell in 2001. Approximately 1.4 million Americans experience Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) each year and an estimated 3.2 million Americans are living with long-term, severe disabilities because of brain injury.

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The Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing brain injuries and to improving the lives of individuals with brain injuries through education, information, and community support. They serve over 3,000 families a year. For more information visit [biaaz.org](http://biaaz.org) or call 602-508-8024.