



**Brain Injury  
Alliance**  
ARIZONA

## Representative Gallego Joins National TBI Task Force

A familiar face from Arizona has joined a congressional task force created to vet and advocate for legislation and to improve life for those living with traumatic brain injury. Congressman Gallego's office announced 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 or the life-changing 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."

The United States Brain Injury Alliance, (USBIA), of whom BIAAZ is a chartered affiliate, expressed similar enthusiasm, noting that Congressman Gallego and the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force are 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 Force Co-Chairs, Congressman Bill Pascrell of New Jersey and Congressman Thomas J. Rooney of Florida for their continued work on behalf of the traumatic brain injury (TBI) community. The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force was formed by Pascrell in 2001. Approximately 1.7 million Americans experience TBI each year and an estimated 3.2 million Americans are living with long-term, severe disabilities because of brain injury.