



## Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF BICYCLE HELMET BILL

Concord, NH  
January 4, 2006

“Prevention is the only cure for brain injury. Most brain injuries are predictable and preventable, and wearing a helmet improves the chance of recovery from a fall without disability,” says Steven Wade, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire.

The Honorable Governor John Lynch will sign HB118 at a public ceremony in the Executive Council Chambers on Friday, January 6, 2006. The legislation requires the use of bicycle helmets by persons 16 years of age or less when riding a bicycle on a public way in New Hampshire. The law took effect on January 1, 2006.

Public support has been key throughout this process. The bill was sponsored by Michael Scanlon (R), Laurie Boyce (R), Joseph Kenney (R), Sheila Roberge (R), Kimberley Casey (D), Robert Flanders (R), Andre’ Martel (R), Pamela Price (R), David Gottsman (D), and Janeen Dalrymple (R).

Statistics show that 88% of all brain injuries sustained by children while participating in wheeled activities are preventable by helmet use. Many New Hampshire residents are unaware of the prevalence of brain injuries in children. In 1999, the most recent data gathering year, over 2,000 children in the state of New Hampshire were hospitalized for TBI. Many New England states mandate helmet use for children – Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut – as well as many other states around the country. Some states require the use of helmets for all individuals, not just children.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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