

March 26, 2007

Leone Nunley
5508 Bristol Way
Yakima, WA 98908

Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon Way
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Gates,

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. I hope it will be a resource for families who are struggling with Traumatic Brain Injury. There are over one million head injuries in the United States every year. There will be many more as our young veterans come home with injuries they have suffered in Iraq. Rehabilitation is usually available only to those who are continuing to make progress.

Severe head injury is not a quick fix. It takes years of therapy, which is not practical for professional rehabilitation units, because of the monetary costs involved. When therapy is no longer an option, families have two choices to make. They must either put their loved one in a nursing home, or bring them home. There are very few Adult Family homes for young people with severe head injury.

I have enclosed "Fighting for David." It is the story of our families struggle to help our son be the best he can be after he suffered severe head injury in a motorcycle accident in 1989. He was twenty-one and a Jr. at Washington State University at the time. It was determined that he would never wake up. As you will find out, if you read the book, he is very much alive and doing very well considering his prognosis.

It is my prayer, that David's story could be used as a tool to help other families who are coping with head injuries. Hopefully, you can get this book into the hands of those who would benefit from reading it. It offers an alternative to families, and is based on a fairly unknown therapy, called patterning. This therapy is designed to do in the home using volunteers. It is taught at The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential. (Philadelphia, PA area.)

The book is available on line and is reasonably priced for about twelve dollars. The publisher is Tyndale House Publishing. The proceeds from the book go to Shepherd's Door in Portland, OR. For anyone who would like to contact me my e-mail address is: davidmraebook2005@hotmail.com. I also have a website www.fightingfordavid.com
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Sincerely Yours,

Leone Nunley