



## *Press Release*

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Tracy Tarvers, Survivor of Brain Injury, To Testify at Commonwealth's Public Hearing Regarding FY 2013 Budget**

Tracy Tarvers, a survivor of a brain and spinal cord injury, will be testifying this Friday, Dec. 9, at the Commonwealth's public hearing on the FY 2013 budget. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is conducting the public hearing so that individuals such as Tracy can voice their concerns regarding cuts and reductions of services.

"Just imagine if you, or someone you truly care about, were injured. How would you feel about being told that before 2012 the state was able to help you in some ways but now, because of determined budget cuts, some or all of your services and programs are being eliminated?" asks Tarvers, who was severely injured when the car she was driving was hit from behind and pushed into oncoming traffic.

"Tracy is an example of how much an individual can accomplish when provided services and support," says Arlene Korab, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA). In addition to being an advocate for individuals with brain injury, Tarvers, who lives in a group home, runs a monthly support group for BIA-MA, presents at Brains At Risk, a court-referral program, and increases awareness as a speaker in BIA-MA's Ambassador Program. In 2010, Tarvers published *To Rise, Then Roll* which chronicles her journey as a survivor of brain injury.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is a private, non-profit organization that provides support services to brain injury survivors and their families, offers programs to prevent brain injuries, educates the public on the risks and impact of brain injury, and advocates for legislation and improved services. To learn more about brain injury and BIA-MA programs, go to [www.biama.org](http://www.biama.org).

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**Note:** Interviews can be set up with Tracy and other survivors as well as family members and professionals. For more information, contact [pbush@biama.org](mailto:pbush@biama.org).