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December 21, 2017

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My name is Dr. Thomas Seastrunk and I served on the Brain injury Association of South Carolina's Board of Directors for 3 terms between 2006 and 2017. I was a practicing physician, when I was in an accident and received a traumatic brain injury(TBI). Now, I am a brain injury survivor and am advocating for fellow survivors. As a practitioner and a survivor, I know too well the difficulties TBI presents.

The Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (BIASC) has received numerous requests from brain injury survivors to develop a Brain Injury Survivor Wallet Card. The card is small enough to be carried in a wallet, and will assist survivors when they come in contact with others who are not aware of the signs or symptoms of brain injury. Often, TBI survivors are not able to express themselves in order to make others aware of their condition. They are often presumed to be intoxicated, combative, or unwilling to cooperate in certain circumstances.

A person with a brain injury can carry this wallet card to help avoid misunderstandings with law enforcement, first responders, and others. The card includes contact information, common signs and symptoms of brain injury, and a designated emergency contact if needed. The cards and this letter will be available on the BIASC website for survivors to print and take to their physicians.

In order for the card to be considered valid, it should be signed by the brain injury survivor's physician. The BIASC is asking that any physician caring for a brain injury survivor to honor this request, if a card is presented to them. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Thomas Seastrunk, DO  
Brain Injury Association of SC Volunteer