

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



Congress of
Neurological
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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President
JACQUES J. MORCOS, MD
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President
ALEXANDER A. KHALESSI, MD
San Diego, California

June 17, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley M. Capito, Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-146, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Baldwin and Capito:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), representing more than 4,500 practicing neurosurgeons in the United States, we write to urge the subcommittee to provide a significant increase in FY 2025 funding for The Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies® (BRAIN) Initiative. Established in 2013 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the BRAIN Initiative aims to revolutionize our understanding of the human brain. In the decade since its inception, the BRAIN Initiative has shown that it is more than fundamental research. It is fundamental to research.

Many innovative tools, resources and insights on brain function and first-in-human trials have been made possible by BRAIN Initiative researchers. These advances are laying the foundation for more precise and targeted treatments for devastating neurologic disorders. Unfortunately, as you are aware, the FY 2024 appropriations legislation slashed the funding for the BRAIN Initiative by 41 percent, from \$680 million in FY 2023 to \$402 million in FY 2024. This amount represents a massive blow to our dedicated physician members. For example, our neurosurgeons who specialize in functional and stereotactic neurosurgery rely on this critical funding to design trials to discover newer methods of neuromodulation and design and develop new devices for recording and stimulating the human brain.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you to provide this crucial funding for the BRAIN Initiative.

Sincerely,

Jacques J. Morcos, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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