

November 21, 2024

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

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

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and the NIH *All of Us* Research Program. **As Congress completes negotiations on FY 2025 appropriations we respectfully request that you maintain or exceed the total Senate-proposed funding levels of \$680.4 million for the BRAIN Initiative and \$541 million for the *All of Us* Research Program for Fiscal Year 2025.** Each of these programs is supported by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Innovation Fund. With diminishing resources available from the Innovation Fund, it is critical that Congress provide sufficient discretionary appropriations to allow these two groundbreaking programs to continue to make revolutionary advances that can improve brain and overall health outcomes.

### **BRAIN Initiative**

Despite tremendous progress, brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, autism, epilepsy, schizophrenia, depression, and traumatic brain injury, are projected to be some of the most disabling and costly chronic diseases in the 21st century. One in three Americans will have a brain or nervous system disorder sometime in their life and the cost of treating neurological disorders is nearly \$1.5 trillion each year. The BRAIN Initiative is revolutionizing our understanding of the brain and offering hope for the millions of individuals impacted by brain diseases and conditions.

Significant strides in neuroscience research have been made in the past few years. Some examples of this include advancements in Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), which have provided life-changing improvements for patients with severe depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder,

and traumatic brain injury (TBI), and more recently, a [study](#) that showed success in demonstrating that a computerized brain implant can decode internal speech.

Another recent advancement includes the monumental neuroscience news that the BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network (BICCN) program, for the first time ever, created a cell atlas of a whole mouse brain and a draft cell atlas of the human brain. These multidisciplinary findings bring researchers closer to understanding the brain's cellular makeup and how brain disorders develop, progress, and are best treated and provide important tools for researchers to continue to make discoveries.

Despite continued progress and growing opportunity, The BRAIN Initiative has faced decreased funding in recent years, reducing its capabilities. Due to the drop in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures funding and the lack of additional discretionary funding, the BRAIN Initiative received only \$402 million in FY 2024—roughly a 40% cut from the previous year's appropriation. The significant funding reduction has impacted the BRAIN Initiative's capacity to support potential groundbreaking research, with only 50% of proposals being funded in FY 2024. With flat discretionary funding in FY 2025, the BRAIN Initiative will face an additional \$81 million cut, resulting in fewer than 20% of research proposals being funded. This would impede new clinical neurologic advancement for thousands of those with debilitating brain diseases and conditions. Ultimately, we strongly encourage you to further your support for the BRAIN Initiative to ensure that these exciting advancements in neuroscience continue.

### **All of Us Research Program**

The *All of Us* Research Program is designed to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. By taking into account individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biology, the program aims to uncover paths toward delivering precision medicine—tailored to the individual.

The program's diverse cohort is critical to its success. Historically, medical research has not always been representative of the population at large, leading to gaps in knowledge and care. *All of Us* is committed to including participants from all walks of life, especially those who have been underrepresented in biomedical research. This inclusivity is essential for ensuring that the findings of the research are applicable to everyone and can lead to more precise healthcare solutions based on individual differences and improved public health outcomes.

The program is still working towards the goal of enrolling one million participants, yet it is already delivering results to participants and the scientific/medical community. More than 100,000 participants have received personalized health-related DNA reports from the program, with information about hereditary disease risk and how their bodies process certain medications. Through these reports, *All of Us* provided potentially life-saving information about the genetic risk of cancers, heart disease, or other conditions to more than 2,000 participants already. Researchers and institutions from all fifty states have signed up to utilize the *All of Us* dataset. As a result, researchers have initiated more than [10,000](#) projects using *All of Us* data and published hundreds of [papers](#) in peer-reviewed journals – on cancer, diabetes, kidney health, heart disease, depression, glaucoma, COVID-19, alcohol and substance use, physical activity, and other topics.

Just recently, the program reported the discovery of 275 million previously unknown genetic variants from data shared by *All of Us* participants, a massive tranche that may offer new clues about genetic influences on health and disease.

Much more work remains before the full potential of *All of Us* can be realized. This includes the active recruitment of children into the cohort to improve the health of children and to better understand conditions that onset in adulthood but are rooted in childhood. However, decreased funding in Fiscal Year 2024 now threatens the program and the scientific breakthroughs envisioned for the program. In FY24, *All of Us* received \$357 million representing a decrease of \$184 million (34%) compared to last year's appropriation. According to the program's leadership, this decrease in funding will have a substantial impact, including: a decrease in the rate of new enrollments, a delay in the launch of pediatric enrollment, and a slowing of new data collection.

### **Conclusion**

Further funding cuts for the Brain Initiative and the *All of Us* Research Program in FY 2025 will limit their ability to advance research, support new studies, spark discoveries that revolutionize understanding of brain function, and ensure researchers have data that is representative of the entire population. As champions of the BRAIN Initiative and the *All of Us* Research Program, we urge you to support these important programs in FY 2025 to ensure continued innovative research and improved health for all Americans. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to advancing medical research and public health. If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out to Meghan Riley at [mriley@dc-crd.com](mailto:mriley@dc-crd.com).

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition  
A Nation of Hope  
ACCESS  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy  
Alliance for Patient Access  
American Academy of Neurological Surgery  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association on Health & Disability  
American Clinical Neurophysiology Society  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American Epilepsy Society

American Neurological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Stroke Association  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Area Health Education Center for Western Washington  
Asian Health Coalition  
Association of University Professors of Neurology  
Baker Street Cares Foundation  
BCI Pioneers Coalition  
BDSRA Foundation  
Brain Aneurysm Foundation  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brown University  
CACNA1A Foundation  
Canavan Foundation  
Carilion Clinic/ Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine  
Cerebral Palsy Research Network  
Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation  
Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.  
Coalition to Cure CHD2  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Council on Social Work Education  
CSNK2A1 Foundation  
Cure Alzheimer's Fund  
Cure Brain Disease  
CURE Epilepsy  
CURE GABA-A  
cureCADASIL  
CureSHANK  
Danny Did Foundation  
Dementia Society of America  
Dillard University Community Relations  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Dup15q Alliance  
DYNC1H1 Association  
Dyspraxia DCD America  
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)  
Epilepsy Alliance America  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Epilepsy Leadership Council  
FAM177A1 Research Fund  
FamilieSCN2A Foundation

FND Hope  
Friedman Brain Institute, Icahn Mount Sinai  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
GABA-A Alliance  
GRIN2B Foundation  
Harvard University  
Headache and Migraine Policy Forum  
Hope for HIE  
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
Hydrocephalus Association  
IEEE Brain  
INADcure Foundation  
International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke  
International BCI Society  
International Bipolar Foundation  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research  
International OCD Foundation  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc  
KCNQ2 Cure Alliance  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC  
M-CM Network  
Maryland Rural Health Association  
McLean Hospital  
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation  
Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)  
Miles for Migraine  
MLD Foundation  
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition  
Nash Family Center for Advanced Circuit Therapeutics at Mount Sinai  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Headache Foundation  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Institute of Mental Health

National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Network of Depression Centers  
National Rural Health Association  
Neurotech Network  
New Orleans Council on Aging  
New York University  
NORSE Institute  
North American Neuromodulation Society  
Northwest Noggin  
NR2F1 Foundation  
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
Parkinson's Foundation  
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
PURA Syndrome Foundation  
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN) Coordinating Committee  
Rural Minds  
SCDAI Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois  
Seven Star Academy Inc  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Neurological Surgeons  
South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy  
Southern University at Shreveport  
STXBP1 Foundation  
SynGAP Research Fund dba Cure SYNGAP1  
TBF for Brain Aneurysm Prevention  
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration  
The Brain Donor Project  
The Cute Syndrome Foundation  
The Kennedy Forum  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Salk Institute  
The STARR Coalition  
The Sturge-Weber Foundation  
Treatment Advocacy Center  
TSC Alliance  
UnidosUS  
University of Illinois College of Medicine  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
University of Pittsburgh  
v-ATPase Alliance

Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Walt's Waltz  
YWHAG Research Foundation

**cc:** The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations