

June 5, 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 20515

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

The undersigned members of the brain health community are grateful for the robust investment the Committee has provided for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative in recent years. The steady commitment to investing in neuroscience is helping researchers make discoveries that fundamentally change and improve our understanding of how the human brain works and is opening the door to innovative technologies and treatments for brain-related diseases and disorders. Only through research will the causes, cures, and ultimately the prevention of neurological and psychiatric disorders be found. **As such, we respectfully request that you provide at least \$740 million for the BRAIN Initiative in FY 2025.**

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, disorders, and injuries.

Notably, 2023 brought many groundbreaking advancements in neuroscience research. Some of the BRAIN Initiative's 2023 achievements include a study on how spinal cord stimulations helps restore arm and hand function after paralysis,¹ a study in which scientists were able to identify

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10291889/>

biomarkers associated with chronic pain disorders caused by strokes or amputation,² a revolutionary study on how to promote brain health in aging,³ and a study in which deep brain stimulation (DBS) promoted recovery of upper limb function in stroke patients.⁴ The year concluded with 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. Ultimately, we strongly encourage you to further your support for the BRAIN Initiative to ensure that these exciting advancements in neuroscience continue.

As representatives of the brain community and supporters of the BRAIN Initiative, we are enthusiastic about the discoveries that will be possible through your continued support of this innovative program. Thank you for considering our request for at least \$740 million for the BRAIN Initiative in FY 2025. If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out to the American Brain Coalition's Executive Director Katie Sale at ksale@americanbraincoalition.org.

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition
A Nation of Hope
AcademyHealth
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 Pharmacy
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Epilepsy Society
American Neurological Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
American Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery
American Stroke Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Baker Street Cares Foundation
Baylor College of Medicine
BCI Pioneers Coalition

² <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41593-023-01338-z>

³ <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/funded-project/promoting-functional-brain-maintenance-insights-from-successful-agers/>

⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-023-02507-0>

BDSRA Foundation
Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation
Boston University
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Brown University
Canavan Foundation
Carnegie Mellon University
Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation
Cerebral Palsy Research Network
Child Neurology Foundation
Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.
Coalition to Cure CHD2
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
CSNK2A1 Foundation
CTNNB1 Connect and Cure
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
Cure Brain Disease
CURE Epilepsy
Cure GABA-A
cureCADASIL
cureSHANK
Danny Did Foundation
Dementia Society of America
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Dub15q Alliance
Dyspraxia DCD America
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Leadership Council
FAM177A1 Research Fund
FND Hope
Focused Ultrasound Foundation
Friedman Brain Institute, Icahn Mount Sinai
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
GABA-A Alliance
Glut1 Deficiency Foundation
Harvard University
Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
Headache Cooperative of the Pacific
Hope for HIE
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Hope for ULD

Huntington's Disease Society of America
Hydrocephalus Association
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
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 Neuroethics Society
International OCD Foundation
Koolen-de Vries Syndrome Foundation
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
LGS Foundation
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC
M-CM Network
Malan Syndrome Foundation
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
McLean Hospital
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation
Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)
Miles for Migraine
MLD Foundation
My Kool Brother
Nash Family Center for Advanced Circuit Therapeutic, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Ataxia Foundation
National Headache Foundation
National MS Society
National Network of Depression Centers
Neurocritical Care Society
Neurotech Network
New Jersey Institute of Technology
North American Neuromodulation Society
Northwest Noggin
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical
Parkinson's Foundation
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Project 8p Foundation
PURA Syndrome Foundation

Rare Epilepsy Network (REN)
Ring14 USA
Rural Minds
SHINE Syndrome Foundation
SMC1A Foundation
SNAP25 Foundation
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Neurological Surgeons
South Carolina Advocates For Epilepsy
Southern Headache Society
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation
STXBP1 Foundation
SYNGAP1 Foundation
SynGAP Research Fund
TBF for Brain Aneurysm Prevention
TESS Research Foundation
The Brain Donor Project
The Cute Syndrome Foundation
The Kennedy Forum
The Mac Parkman Foundation for Adolescent Concussive Trauma
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The STARR Coalition
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
Treatment Advocacy Center
TSC Alliance
Tulane University
University of California - Los Angeles
University of Illinois College of Medicine
University of Iowa
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Pittsburgh
Walt's Waltz