

March 27, 2026

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

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
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 Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Thank you for your continued bipartisan support for biomedical and behavioral research, including the groundbreaking research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Brain Research Through Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. The undersigned organizations are grateful for the \$4 million increase provided to the BRAIN Initiative in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and write to express our continued strong support for the BRAIN Initiative.

The BRAIN Initiative is currently supported by the 21st Century Cures Innovation Fund, and with resources from the fund ending in FY 2026, it is critical that Congress provide robust discretionary appropriations to allow this groundbreaking program to continue to make revolutionary advances that improve brain and overall health outcomes. **For FY 2027, we respectfully request that you provide \$468 million for the BRAIN Initiative.**

Despite tremendous progress, brain diseases, conditions, and injuries are projected to be some of the most disabling and costly chronic conditions 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 brain disorders is nearly \$1.5 trillion each year.¹ The BRAIN Initiative is revolutionizing our understanding of the brain and offering hope for the millions of individuals impacted by brain diseases, conditions, and injuries.

Significant strides in cognitive and neuroscience research have been made in the past few years. The BRAIN Initiative has supported scientists in developing adaptive deep brain stimulation

¹ <https://itif.org/publications/2016/07/11/brain-disorders-and-diseases-cost-us-economy-15-trillion-underscoring-scale/>

(aDBS), a therapy that sends electrical signals to the brain and monitors brain activity in real time to help treat various neurological disorders.² New advances in recent years have allowed for improved response to brain activity, and recent clinical trials have shown significant improvement in symptom relief for Parkinson's disease, potentially leading to breakthroughs for other debilitating diseases.

Scientists funded by the BRAIN Initiative have also made novel advancements in treating spinal cord injuries such as paralysis, weakness, and loss of sensation through spinal cord stimulation (SCS).³ New computer models and modernized SCS technology have allowed researchers to build 3D maps of spinal nerve fibers, neurons, and circuits to better understand how our brain and body communicate. Through public investment, the first non-invasive SCS device was approved to help treat spinal cord injuries, leading us a step closer to more permanent therapies for patients.

With flat discretionary funding in FY 2027, the BRAIN Initiative will face a \$195 million cut, resulting in fewer research proposals being funded. Reduced funding will impede new clinical neurologic advancement for thousands of those with debilitating brain diseases, conditions, and injuries. Ultimately, we strongly encourage you to further your support for the BRAIN Initiative to ensure that these lifesaving advancements in neuroscience continue.

Any cut to BRAIN Initiative funding in FY 2027 will limit its ability to advance research, support new studies, and spark discoveries that revolutionize our understanding of brain function. We urge you to support this important program in FY 2027 to ensure continued innovative research and improved health for all Americans by providing an investment of \$468 million in the BRAIN Initiative. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to advancing medical research. If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out to Katie Sale at ksale@americanbraincoalition.org.

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
Alliance for Patient Access
Alliance to Cure Cavernous Malformation
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
American Academy of Neurology
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association on Health and Disability
American Brain Foundation
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP)
American Epilepsy Society

² <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/about-ninds/75th-anniversary/deep-brain-stimulation>

³ <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/about-ninds/75th-anniversary/spinal-cord-stimulation>

American Heart Association
American Neurological Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP)
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association for Creatine Deficiencies
Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
Association for Psychological Science
Association of Academic Leaders of Neurology (formerly AUPN)
BCI Pioneers Coalition
Black Men's Brain Health Conference
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Brainsonix Corporation
CACNA1A Foundation
CADASIL Association, Inc. dba cureCADASIL
Caregiver Action Network
Cerebral Palsy Foundation
Cerebral Palsy Research Network
Child Neurology Foundation
Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc.
Chronic Migraine Awareness
Coalition to Cure CHD2
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Council on Social Work Education
Cover My Mental Health
CSNK2A1 Foundation
CTNNB1 Connect and Cure
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
CURE Epilepsy
CureGRIN Foundation
CurePSP
CureSHANK
CURE SYNGAP1 f/k/a/ SynGAP Research Fund, 501c3
DEE-P Connections
Dementia Society of America
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Dup15q Alliance
Dysphonia International
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Epitome Of Epilepsy
FAM177A1 Research Fund

FamiliesSCN2A Foundation
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS)
Focused Ultrasound Foundation
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
GABA-A Alliance
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gerontological Society of America
GNB1 Advocacy Group, Inc.
GRIN2B Foundation
HardyHandz Foundation
Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
Hellenic Brain Council
HNRNP Family Foundation
Hope for HIE
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Huntington's Disease Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Huntington's Disease Youth Organization
Hydrocephalus Association
I AM ALS
IEEE Brain Technical Community
International Bipolar Foundation
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Foundation for CDKL5 RESEARCH
International OCD Foundation
International SCN8A Alliance
KCNQ2 Cure Alliance
Lakeshore Foundation
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation
Lewy Body Dementia Resource Center
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals
Maryland Rural Health Association
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
M-CM Network
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Mediterranean Neuroscience Society
Miles for Migraine
MLD Foundation
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)
National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA)
National Ataxia Foundation
National Headache Foundation
National Health Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network of Depression Centers
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
Neurocritical Care Society
Neurotech Network
NORSE Institute
North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium
Northwest Noggin
Parkinson's Foundation
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium
Project 8p Foundation
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN) Coordinating Committee
Reason for Hope
Ring 20 USA
Rural Minds
Second Wind Dreams
Simply Neuroscience
SLC6A1 Connect
Social Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Experimental Psychologists
South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy
Southern Headache Society
Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Inc
Spina Bifida Association
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation
SPIRE Therapeutics
STXBP1 Foundation
The Bee Foundation For Brain Aneurysm Prevention
The Brain Donor Project
The Cute Syndrome Foundation
The LCC Foundation
The Mac Parkman Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The STARR Coalition
Tourette Association of America
TSC Alliance

U.S. Pain Foundation
University at Albany, State University of New York
University of Iowa
University of Nebraska Medical Center
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
Voices of Alzheimer's
Walt's Waltz
YWHAG Research Foundation

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