

April 2, 2024

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear 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 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

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

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>

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

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy

Alliance for Patient Access

American Academy of Neurology

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

American Epilepsy Society

American Neurological Association

American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology

American Stroke Association

Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Association of University Professors of Neurology

BDSRA Foundation

BCI Pioneers Coalition

Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation

Brain Aneurysm Foundation

Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation

Cerebral Palsy Research Network

Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.

Cohen Veterans Bioscience

CSNK2A1 Foundation

CTNNB1 Connect and Cure

Cure Brain Disease

cureCADASIL

CURE Epilepsy

Cure GABA-A

cureSHANK

Danny Did Foundation

Dementia Society of America

Dravet Syndrome Foundation

Dub15q Alliance

Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation
FAM177A1 Research Fund
Focused Ultrasound Foundation
FND Hope
GABA-A Alliance
Headache Cooperative of the Pacific
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 Bipolar Foundation
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Neuroethics Society
Koolen-de Vries Syndrome Foundation
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
LGS Foundation
M-CM Network
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
McLean Hospital
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation
Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)
Miles for Migraine
My Kool Brother
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Ataxia Foundation
National Headache Foundation
National MS Society
Neurocritical Care Society
Neurotech Network
Northwest Noggin
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Society for Neuroscience
South Carolina Advocates For Epilepsy
Southern Headache Society

Spinal CSF Leak Foundation
SMC1A Foundation
SYNGAP1 Foundation
SynGAP Research Fund
The Brain Donor Project
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The STARR Coalition
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
University of Nebraska Medical Center