

Overview of Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations

Congress recently enacted a \$1.5 trillion in spending for fiscal year (FY) 2022. This legislation impacts a number of priorities the AAN has championed throughout the 117th Congress, including retaining telehealth flexibilities beyond the public health emergency, historic levels of funding for medical research, and ensuring high quality neurologic care for American's veterans. This legislation is extensive, consisting of nearly 3,000 pages. Due to this, only the key health care policies that most impact AAN members are summarized here:

Telehealth

- Medicare telehealth flexibilities have been extended for 151 days following the end of the public health emergency (PHE). Given that many expect the PHE to end in July, this extends current flexibilities through mid-December. While the AAN had advocated for a longer extension, this action eliminates the risk of an immediate and sudden cliff in telehealth policy. The AAN will continue to advocate for a permanent action or a multi-year extension of telehealth flexibilities as the end of the year approaches.

Supporting American's Veterans

- Congress urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to “increase its investment to maintain and expand existing centers of excellence within VA dedicated to neurological conditions.” Congress also requested a report detailing opportunities to enhance care for veterans with neurologic conditions. The AAN [led the request](#) for this language – along with our coalition partners.
- The bill also included specific appropriations for the VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (\$10 million) and reiterated its support for a significant expansion of the VA Headache Centers of Excellence.

Medical Research and Health Care Agencies: Each health care and medical research program prioritized by the AAN received at least stable funding for FY22, with most programs receiving significant increases. This included:

- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – \$108.3 billion for HHS, an increase of \$11.3 billion above the 2021 enacted level
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – \$8.5 billion for CDC, an increase of \$582 million above the 2021 enacted level
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) -- \$350.4 million for AHRQ, an increase of \$12.4 million above the 2021 enacted level
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) – \$44.959 billion for NIH, an increase of \$2.025 billion above the 2021 enacted level. This includes:
 - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS): \$2.611 billion, an increase of \$98 million, for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
 - Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H): \$1 billion for this new program within the HHS Office of the Secretary to accelerate the pace of scientific breakthroughs for “diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, and cancer.”
 - BRAIN Initiative: \$620 million, an increase of \$60 million
 - Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Dementias: \$3.2 billion, an increase of \$289 million
 - HEAL Initiative: \$615.59 million, an increase of \$75 million
 - Firearm injury and mortality prevention research: \$12.5 million, same as the 2021 enacted level