



Statement of the American Brain Coalition

From Mark M. Rasenick, PhD, Chair, American Brain Coalition

The American Brain Coalition (ABC) is deeply concerned by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 “skinny budget” released by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on May 2. The proposed budget would be catastrophic for the U.S. biomedical research enterprise and significantly undermine our nation’s global leadership in science and innovation.

The proposal includes a staggering \$33 billion (26%) cut to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including a \$18 billion (40%) reduction to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Such an unprecedented loss of funding would set back decades of progress in understanding and treating debilitating brain diseases and disorders. In addition, the budget calls for a consolidation of NIH’s 27 Institutes and Centers into just five overarching areas – without a transparent or deliberate process to evaluate the impact of such a reorganization. The proposal also recommends capping facilities and administrative (F&A) costs at 15%, threatening the critical infrastructure that supports research institutions nationwide. More details about the president’s budget [request](#) are available [here](#).

On May 7, ABC members and leaders traveled to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to safeguard and strengthen the future of brain and biomedical research. During meetings with 14 congressional offices - including members of the Appropriations Committees, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Senate HELP Committee - we emphasized the urgent need to reject the proposed NIH cuts and maintain stable, predictable, and sustained research funding; and restore FY 2026 funding for the BRAIN Initiative to \$680 million to preserve the initiative’s transformative momentum. ABC also underscored the dire consequences of the proposed cuts, which would irreparably stall progress in developing treatments and cures for brain conditions affecting millions of Americans.

ABC’s Hill Day concluded with a Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) briefing titled *“Advancing Neuroscience for Americans: Breakthroughs in Addiction Research Enabled by the NIH BRAIN Initiative.”* The briefing highlighted the collaborative work between the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the BRAIN Initiative, featuring major research achievements, current priorities, and real-world applications transforming our understanding of brain function and addiction. A full recording and summary of the briefing will be available on our [website](#) soon.

The American Brain Coalition will continue to advocate vigorously on behalf of the brain research community and will keep our members informed as the FY 2026 budget and appropriations process evolves.