



April 1, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Cole,

The brain is the last great frontier of medical science – but thanks to federal research investment, neuroscience is at a historic turning point. A continuous stream of breakthroughs is fundamentally changing our understanding of how the human brain works and opening the door to innovative technologies and treatments for brain-related diseases and disorders. At the same time, one in three Americans will have a brain or nervous system disorder sometime in their life and brain disorders and diseases impose a cost on the economy of more than \$1.5 trillion per year. Only through research will the causes, cures, and ultimately prevention of neurological and psychiatric disorders be found. **As such, we respectfully request that you provide at least \$560 million for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative in fiscal year 2022.**

Because of great progress made by projects funded by the BRAIN Initiative, the recent BRAIN Initiative Advisory Committee 2.0 report noted that “transformative projects” are now possible at a scale and level of completeness not previously imaginable. In fiscal year 2021, Congress invested an unprecedented \$560 million to fund truly transformational projects to advance our understanding of the brain and the identification of mechanisms to finally treat and cure brain-related diseases. BRAIN-initiative projects aim at development of sophisticated techniques that combine aspects of physics, chemistry and computer science to enhance our ability to understand how the brain executes the extraordinarily complex functions that contribute to both quotidian human function and to brain disease. To continue and capitalize on this progress, we encourage you to further your support by again providing robust funding for the BRAIN Initiative. In the coming years, the BRAIN Initiative plans to launch three large projects to transform the way we conduct neuroscience research and apply this knowledge toward cures. Collectively, these projects will build a comprehensive guide of human brain cell types; develop and scale tools necessary to complete a “wiring diagram” of an entire mammalian brain; and then based on this knowledge, develop molecular and gene-editing therapies to study and treat human circuit disorders. These transformative projects will not be possible without sustained federal funding.

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 your consideration of this request and consistent support of biomedical research. If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out to ABC's Executive Director Katie Sale at ksale@americanbraincoalition.org.

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Patient Access
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Neurology
American Brain Foundation
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Epilepsy Society (AES)
American Headache Society
American Neurological Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
American Stroke Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Autoimmune Encephalitis Alliance, Inc
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Bridge the Gap - Syngap Education and Research Foundation
CADASIL Association (a.k.a cureCADASIL Association)
Cerebral Palsy Research Network
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
Cure Alliance for Mental Illness
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
CureSHANK
Dementia Society of America
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Down with Dystonia
Dup15q Alliance
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
FND Hope
Focused Ultrasound Foundation
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Hydrocephalus Association
I AM ALS
INADcure Foundation
International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke

International Bipolar Foundation
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Rett Syndrome Foundation
Kernel
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
LGS Foundation
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC
M-CM Network
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Ataxia Foundation
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia, Inc
Northwest Noggin
One Mind
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
RARE-X
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
Society for Neuroscience
Spina Bifida Association
SynGAP Research Fund, 501(c)(3)
The Aneurysm and AVM Foundation (TAAF)
The Bee Foundation for Brain Aneurysms
The Brain Donor Project
The Brain Recovery Project: Childhood Epilepsy Surgery Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation
The STARR Coalition
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
University of Nebraska Medical Center