

January 22, 2026

Senator Bill Cassidy, MD
Chair, Senate HELP
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Brett Guthrie
Chair, House E&C
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Senate HELP
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Vice-Chair, Senate Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House E&C
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chair Collins, Vice-Chair Murray, Chair Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The 40 undersigned organizations, representing neuroscience researchers and clinicians as well as patients living with neurological conditions, write to express our significant concern regarding Dr. Walter Koroshetz, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), not being renewed for another five-year term. This action was undertaken despite the positive recommendation to renew Dr. Koroshetz's term by NIH's review panel, and the endorsement to do so by the NIH Director, Dr. Jayanta "Jay" Bhattacharya. Given Dr. Koroshetz's record of identifying and

supporting promising and important research, the community is concerned by the unnecessary disruption caused by his absence, especially without a clear succession plan for NINDS leadership. NINDS is a crucial institute at NIH that directs and funds research into conditions of the brain and central nervous system that impact one in two Americans, including Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache, and migraine among others. Research supported by NINDS has led to breakthroughs that have helped countless Americans including Tissue Plasminogen Activator (TPA) to treat stroke, deep brain stimulation (DBS) to treat symptoms of Parkinson's disease, and nusinersen – a gene therapy that has brought hope to parents whose infants are diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). This work puts NINDS at the forefront of addressing chronic disease in America.

Continuity of leadership is key in ensuring that NINDS is able to discover the next generation of treatments and cures for neurological conditions. Dr. Koroshetz has been a devoted leader at the institute for nearly twenty years, whose tenure has been marked by significant progress in our understanding of the brain, through programs like the BRAIN Initiative, and the translation of that progress into the development of novel therapies. He has been a responsible steward of federal research funding, ensuring a transparent and scientifically rigorous process for grant funding while finding opportunities to mentor and train the next generation of neuroscience researchers. He has also been a trustworthy partner to Congressional offices, participating in over 50 Committee hearings, briefings, or other Hill focused events since 2020. The sudden loss of his leadership coupled with the lack of communication about the future of the institute has brought uncertainty to the neuroscience community and the patients we serve.

As the leaders of Congressional committees with oversight of NIH and its funding, we ask that you use your authority to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and the administration to:

- Understand why Dr. Koroshetz was not renewed for another five-year term despite a positive recommendation from the NIH review panel
- Ensure that future leadership decisions are transparent and adhere to rigorous values essential to lead NINDS, and are planned for a successful transition of responsibilities
- Ensure that any leadership change prioritizes scientific research excellence, evidence-based medicine, and deep content expertise in neuroscience

The undersigned organizations are ready and willing to work with future leadership at NINDS, the administration, and Congress to ensure NINDS can continue to support cutting edge research that will help address the burden of chronic disease in our country. If you have any

questions or want additional information, please contact Max Goldman, Director of Congressional Affairs with the American Academy of Neurology, at mgoldman@aan.com.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Neurology
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
ALS Association
American Brain Coalition
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Epilepsy Society
American Neurological Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association of Academic Leaders of Neurology (AALN), formerly AUPN
BCI Pioneers Coalition
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Brain Injury Association of America
Child Neurology Society
Chronic Migraine Awareness
CurePSP
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
Huntington's Disease Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Hydrocephalus Association
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Neuroethics Society
M-CM Network
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation
National Ataxia Foundation
National Network of Depression Centers
North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium
Northwest Noggin
Rural Minds
Rutgers Brain Health Institute

Social Affective Neuroscience Society
Society for Neuroscience
TBF For Brain Aneurysm Prevention
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Brain Donor Project
The FamilieSCN2A Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The STARR Coalition