

April 16, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. **We respectfully request that you restore funding to \$680 million for the BRAIN Initiative for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.** This program is supported by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Innovation Fund, and with diminishing resources available from the fund, it is critical that Congress provide robust discretionary appropriations to allow this groundbreaking program to continue to make revolutionary advances that improve brain and overall health outcomes.

Despite tremendous progress, brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia, depression, headaches, and traumatic brain injury, are projected to be some of the most disabling and costly chronic diseases in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One in three Americans will have a brain or nervous system disorder sometime in their life, and the cost of treating brain 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 and conditions.

Significant strides in neuroscience research have been made in the past few years. In October 2024, an international scientific team unveiled a comprehensive neural map of an adult fruit fly brain, detailing over 50 million connections between more than 140,000 neurons. This groundbreaking study constitutes the largest and most complete wiring diagram of an adult animal brain and serves as a stepping-stone to mapping the human brain.<sup>1</sup> More recently, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://braininitiative.nih.gov/news-events/blog/fruit-fly-brain-map-and-wiring-diagram-major-milestone-neuroscience>

program launched the BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network (BICCN), a collaborative effort to systematically identify and classify brain cell types and expand data-sharing capabilities to enhance collaboration among researchers.<sup>2</sup>

Another recent breakthrough study investigated the use of intracortical micro-stimulation (ICMS) in the brain region responsible for processing sensory input from the arms and hands. Researchers tested an ICMS system on participants with spinal cord injuries. This groundbreaking research uncovered new insights into how the brain interprets artificial sensory signals, bringing science one step closer to integrating advanced bionic limbs that can move according to brain command and can feed back sensory information from artificial limb to brain.<sup>3</sup>

Despite continued progress and growing opportunity, the BRAIN Initiative has faced decreased funding in recent years, reducing its capabilities. Due to the drop in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures funding and the lack of additional discretionary funding, the BRAIN Initiative received only \$402 million in FY 2024—roughly a 40 percent cut from the previous year’s appropriation. The significant funding reduction has impacted the BRAIN Initiative’s capacity to support potential groundbreaking research, with only 50 percent of proposals being funded in FY 2024. With flat discretionary funding in FY 2025, the BRAIN Initiative will face an additional \$81 million cut, resulting in fewer than 20 percent of research proposals being funded. These cuts impede new clinical neurologic advancement for thousands of those with debilitating brain diseases and conditions. Ultimately, we strongly encourage you to further your support for the BRAIN Initiative to ensure that these lifesaving advancements in neuroscience continue.

Further funding cuts for the BRAIN Initiative in FY 2026 will limit its ability to advance research, support new studies, and spark discoveries that revolutionize understanding of brain function. We urge you to support this important program in FY 2026 to ensure continued innovative research and improved health for all Americans. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to advancing medical research. If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out to Katie Sale at [ksale@americanbraincoalition.org](mailto:ksale@americanbraincoalition.org).

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition  
A Nation of Hope  
AcademyHealth  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Patient Access  
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Association on Health and Disability

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<sup>2</sup> <https://braininitiative.nih.gov/research/tools-and-technologies-brain-cells-and-circuits/brain-initiative-cell-census-network>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/creating-artificial-sense-touch>

American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Brain Foundation  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Neurological Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Stroke Association  
Angels of Epilepsy, Inc.  
Anxiety & Depression Association of America  
Association of University Professors of Neurology  
BCI Pioneers Coalition  
BDSRA Foundation  
Belgian Brain Council  
Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Boston University  
Brain Aneurysm Foundation  
Brain Injury Association of America  
CACNA1A Foundation  
Canavan Foundation  
Caregiver Action Network  
CEAFA  
Center for Law, Brain & Behavior, Harvard Medical School  
Cerebral Palsy Research Network  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Child Neurology Society  
Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc.  
Chronic Migraine Awareness  
Coalition to Cure CHD2  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Cory Heidarman Charitable Foundation  
Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP)  
Council on Social Work Education  
Cover My Mental Health  
CSNK2A1 Foundation  
Cure Alzheimer's Fund  
Cure Brain Disease  
cureCADASIL

CURE Epilepsy  
CureSHANK  
Danny Did Foundation  
Dementia Society of America  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Dub15q Alliance  
Dysphonia International  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, and Action  
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)  
Epilepsy Alliance America  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Epitome of Epilepsy  
FAM177A1 Research Fund  
FamiliesSCN2A Foundation Inc.  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
GABA-A Alliance  
Gerontological Society of America  
GRIN2B Foundation  
HardyHandz Foundation  
Headache Cooperative of the Pacific  
Hellenic Brain Council  
Hereditary Disease Foundation  
Hope for HIE  
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
Hydrocephalus Association  
I AM ALS  
IEEE Brain  
International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke  
International Bipolar Foundation  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research  
International OCD Foundation  
KCNQ2 Cure Alliance  
Koolen-de Vries Syndrome Foundation  
KPTN Alliance  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals

M-CM Network  
Maryland Rural Health Association  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
McLean Hospital  
Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute  
Men's Brain Health Initiative  
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation  
Miles for Migraine  
MLD Foundation  
My Kool Brother  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Headache Foundation  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Network of Depression Centers  
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia  
Neurocritical Care Society  
Neurotech Network  
Norse Institute  
North American Neuromodulation Society  
Northwest Noggin  
NR2F1 Foundation  
Otsuka Pharmaceuticals  
Parkinson's Foundation  
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Project 8p Foundation  
PURA Syndrome Foundation  
Rare Epilepsy Network Coordinating Committee  
Reason for Hope  
Rural Minds  
Simply Neuroscience  
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of Experimental Psychologists  
South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy  
Southern Headache Society  
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation

STXBP1 Foundation  
SynGAP Research Fund dba CURE SYNGAP1  
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration  
The Bee Foundation for Brain Aneurysm Prevention  
The Brain Donor Project  
The Cute Syndrome Foundation  
The Friedman Brain Institute  
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum  
The LCC Foundation  
The Mac Parkman Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Rory Belle Foundation  
The Salk Institute  
The STARR Coalition  
The Sturge-Weber Foundation  
Tourette Association of America  
TSC Alliance  
University at Albany, State University of New York  
University of Iowa  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Walt's Waltz  
When The Trumpet Sounds  
YWHAG Research Foundation

**cc:** The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations