

September 20, 2023

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

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

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The undersigned members of the brain health community are writing to respectfully request that the Committee provide robust funding for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative in Fiscal Year 2024. The steady commitment to investing in neuroscience in recent years is helping researchers make discoveries that fundamentally change and improve our understanding of how the human brain works and is opening the door to innovative technologies and treatments for brain-related diseases and disorders. 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 \$680 million for the BRAIN Initiative, as included in the Senate's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, for FY 2024.**

Despite tremendous progress, brain disorders and diseases impose a \$1.5 trillion annual cost to the nation's economy and one in three Americans will have a brain or nervous system disorder sometime in their life. However, the BRAIN Initiative is revolutionizing our understanding of the brain and offering hope for the millions of individuals impacted by brain diseases, disorders, and injuries. For example, the BRAIN Initiative supports transformative projects to create a detailed map of the human brain, diagram the microconnectivity of the brain, and provide the tools to access brain cell types with unprecedented specificity. Ultimately, the rapid advancement of brain science necessitates increased funding to maximize our exploration of the brain and advance our understanding and identification of cures and treatments. To continue and capitalize on these opportunities, we encourage you to further your support by again providing robust funding for the BRAIN Initiative.

We understand Congress faces a challenging budget climate for FY 2024. Passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act means there will be cuts to discretionary spending over the next two years, which will

have a widespread impact on health and research programs. The BRAIN Initiative is our best opportunity to improve our understanding of the human brain and make progress towards treatments and cures for numerous diseases and disorders. Additionally, any funding cuts to the BRAIN Initiative will have a damaging effect on research taking place at institutions across the country. We implore you to prioritize these efforts and provide the highest possible level of funding for the BRAIN Initiative.

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 our request for at least \$680 million for the BRAIN Initiative in FY 2024. If you have questions or would like further information, please reach out to the American Brain Coalition's Executive Director Katie Sale at ksale@americanbraincoalition.org.

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
Alliance for Patient Access
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Academy of Neurology
American Brain Foundation
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Epilepsy Society
American Neurological Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Stroke Association
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Association of University Professors of Neurology
BDSRA Foundation
Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
CACNA1A Foundation
Cerebral Palsy Research Network
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
Council on Social Work Education
CSNK2A1 Foundation
Cure CADASIL Association
CURE Epilepsy
CureSHANK
Dementia Society of America
Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathic (DEE-P Connections)
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Dup15q Alliance
Eagles Autism Foundation
Epilepsies Action Network

Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Association
Epilepsy Foundation
FAM177A1 Research Fund
FND Hope
HD Reach
Healthy Brains Global Initiative
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Hydrocephalus Association
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
INADcure Foundation
International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke
International Bipolar Foundation
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research
International Neuroethics Society
International SCN8A Alliance
Koolen-de Vries Syndrome Foundation
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
M-CM Network
MdDS Foundation
Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)
MLD Foundation
My Kool Brother
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Aphasia Association
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Ataxia Foundation
National Headache Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
Neurocritical Care Society
Neurotech Network
NORSE Institute
Northwest Noggin
One Mind
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN) Coordinating Committee
Rural Minds
SMC1A Foundation
Society for Neuroscience
Spina Bifida Association
STXBP1 Foundation

Syngap Research Fund
SYNGAP1 Foundation
The Bee Foundation for Brain Aneurysm Prevention
The Brain Donor Project
The Cute Syndrome Foundation
The Headache & Migraine Policy Forum
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The STARR Coalition
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
University of Nebraska Medical Center

cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Kay Granger, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations