April 16, 2025

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Hoeven, Ranking Member Shaheen, Chair Harris, and Ranking Member Bishop,

The brain health community is grateful for the initial funding Congress has provided for the FDA's Neurology Drug Program in recent fiscal years. Support for this program will allow the FDA to gain the expertise to develop policies and guidance that keep pace with emerging brain science and speed the development of safe and effective treatments for brain diseases and conditions. As your subcommittees begin to draft FY 2026 appropriations legislation, we ask that you provide $5 million for this important program. Funding at this level, which the Senate Committee approved for FY 2025, will help advance discoveries in all areas of brain health including neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, psychiatric, brain injuries, and more.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) reports that over 1 in 5 adults live with a mental illness. This figure suggests that a large population of Americans have direct experience with one or more brain health conditions. In the face of substantial challenges posed by brain diseases, injuries, and mental health conditions, the availability of effective treatments for both common and rare brain ailments remains notably lacking.[1] The potential to make innovative treatments for these neurological conditions available lies in the ability to conduct comprehensive research, develop innovative therapeutic approaches that target the underlying mechanisms of these brain disorders, and ensure regulatory approval channels are streamlined.

In recent years, the field of neuroscience has made remarkable advancements, and in 2025 we stand on the brink of significant breakthroughs committed to reshaping our understanding and treatment of brain disorders. We continue to anticipate significant progress, particularly for conditions like Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, ALS, depression and Alzheimer's

[1] https://dana.org/article/survey-finds-brain-health-is-a-top-priority-for-americans/#:~:text=The%20National%20Institute%20of%20Neurological,or%20more%20brain%20health%20conditions.

disease.[2] Currently, the FDA has just approved a breakthrough drug for the treatment of schizophrenia.[3]

The personal and economic tolls of brain diseases are immense. Brain diseases and conditions cost the U.S. economy more than $1.5 trillion per year.[4] This extends beyond direct health care costs and encompasses the societal and economic ramifications arising from disease and disability, the accessibility of medical services, and other public health challenges. Increased funding for the Neurology Drug Program would enable the FDA to advance products that better prevent, identify, and address diseases and conditions of the brain, improving the lives of many of these patients and their families.

Again, our organizations are grateful for past funding of the Neurology Drug Program and ask that Congress provide $5 million for the program in FY 2026. It is imperative to the millions of Americans impacted by these diseases, and their family members. We look forward to working together towards the goal of speeding the delivery of safe and effective therapeutics for individuals living with brain diseases and conditions. 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
American Academy of Neurology
American Brain Foundation
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American Neurological Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
Association of University Professors of Neurology
BDSRA Foundation
Brain Aneurysm Foundation
Caregiver Action Network
Center for Law, Brain & Behavior, Harvard Medical School
Cerebral Palsy Research Network
Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation
Chronic Migraine Awareness
Coalition to Cure CHD2
Cory Heidaran Charitable Foundation

[2] https://foothillsneurology.com/neurological-breakthroughs-upcoming-2024/
[3] https://time.com/6509764/new-drug-compound-schizophrenia/
[4] https://itif.org/publications/2016/07/11/brain-disorders-and-diseases-cost-us-economy-15-trillion-underscoring-scale/

Cover My Mental Health
CSNK2A1 Foundation
Cure Brain Disease
cureCADASIL
Cure Epilepsy
Dementia Society of America
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Dysphonia International
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation of America
FamilieSCN2A Foundation Inc
GABA-A Alliance
GRIN2B Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Hydrocephalus Association
IEEE Brain
International Bipolar Foundation
International Essential Tremor Foundation
KCNQ2 Cure Alliance
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals
M-CM Network
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation
Men's Brain Health Initiative
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Ataxia Foundation
National Headache Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
NORSE Institute
Northwest Noggin
Otsuka Pharmaceuticals
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Rare Epilepsy Network Coordinating Committee
Reason for Hope
SLC6A1 Connect
STXBP1 Foundation
SynGAP Research Fund, Inc.
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Bee Foundation for Brain Aneurysm Prevention
The Brain Donor Project
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

The STARR Coalition
TSC Alliance
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Pittsburgh
v-ATPase Alliance

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
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations