

March 19, 2026

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 funding Congress has provided for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Neurology Drug Program since Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, including a \$3 million increase in FY 2026. Continued support for this program will allow the FDA to gain additional 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 drafts **FY 2027 appropriations legislation, we ask that you provide \$7 million for this important program.**

Funding for the Neurology Drug Program will allow FDA to grow its engagement in all areas of neuroscience across the agency. Increased resources will give FDA additional capacity to advance discoveries in every facet of brain health, including neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, psychiatric, brain injuries, and more. It will also support an expert FDA staff to ensure coordination among the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, and the Center for Devices and Radiological Health in this work.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) reports that more than one in five adults live with a mental illness.<sup>1</sup> Compounding this, a 2025 systematic analysis by the American Academy of Neurology published in *JAMA Neurology* found that neurological diseases and disorders affect more than 180 million Americans, over half the U.S. population, making disorders of the nervous system the top cause of health loss in the country.<sup>2</sup> These figures suggest that a large population of Americans has direct experience with one or more brain health conditions. In the face of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

<sup>2</sup> Ney JP, et al. *US Burden of Disorders Affecting the Nervous System*. *JAMA Neurology*. November 24, 2025. American Academy of Neurology Press Release: <https://www.aan.com/PressRoom/Home/PressRelease/5296>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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 we are moving closer to significant breakthroughs that will reshape our understanding and treatment of brain disorders. We continue to anticipate significant progress for a host of brain diseases, conditions, and injuries. We need FDA to engage with individuals, clinicians, and experts in the brain health community to ensure patients can benefit from these discoveries.

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.<sup>4</sup> 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 \$7 million for the program in FY 2027. It is imperative to the millions of Americans impacted by these diseases, as well as their family members, caregivers, and communities. 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](mailto:ksale@americanbraincoalition.org).

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy  
Alliance for Patient Access  
Alliance to Cure Cavernous Malformation  
ALS Association  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Brain Foundation

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<sup>3</sup> <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.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://itif.org/publications/2016/07/11/brain-disorders-and-diseases-cost-us-economy-15-trillion-underscoring-scale/>

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP)  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Neurological Association  
Association for Creatine Deficiencies  
Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration  
Association of Academic Leaders in Neurology (formerly AUPN)  
BCI Pioneers Coalition  
Brainsonix Corporation  
CACNA1A Foundation  
CADASIL Association, Inc. dba cureCADASIL  
Caregiver Action Network  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc.  
Chronic Migraine Awareness  
Coalition to Cure CHD2  
CSNK2A1 Foundation  
CTNNB1 Connect and Cure  
Cure Alzheimer's Fund  
CURE Epilepsy  
CureGRIN Foundation  
CurePSP  
CureSHANK  
DEE-P Connections  
Dementia Society of America  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)  
Dravet Syndrome Foundation  
Dup15q Alliance  
Dysphonia International  
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)  
Epilepsy Alliance of America  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
FAM177A1 Research Fund  
FamiliesSCN2A Foundation  
Focused Ultrasound Foundation  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
GABA-A Alliance  
GNB1 Advocacy Group, Inc  
GRIN2B Foundation  
Headache and Migraine Policy Forum  
Hellenic Brain Council  
Hope for HIE  
Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas  
Huntington's Disease Foundation

Huntington's Disease Society of America  
IEEE Brain Technical Community  
International Bipolar Foundation  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International SCN8A Alliance  
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
Lewy Body Dementia Resource Center  
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals  
M-CM Network  
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation  
Mediterranean Neuroscience Society  
Mental Health America  
Miles for Migraine  
MLD Foundation  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Network of Depression Centers  
Neurocritical Care Society  
Neurotech Network  
NORSE Institute  
North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium  
Northwest Noggin  
Parkinson's Foundation  
Project 8p Foundation  
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN) Coordinating Committee  
Ring 20 USA  
Rural Minds  
Second Wind Dreams  
Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology  
Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Inc  
SSADH Association  
STXBP1 Foundation  
The Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
The Bee Foundation for Brain Aneurysm Prevention  
The Black Men's Health Brain Health Initiative  
The Brain Donor Project  
The LCC Foundation  
The Mac Parkman Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

The STARR Coalition  
Tourette Association of America  
TSC Alliance  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
U.S. Pain Foundation  
Voices of Alzheimer's

**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