

National Brain Tumor Society
2017 Legislative Agenda

During the 114th Congress, there was significant emphasis on advancing medical research to discover new treatments and ultimately cures for diseases that impact millions of Americans. National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) played an active role in the policymaking process, and thousands of brain tumor advocates raised their voices in support of increasing the level of federal investment in brain tumor research, as well as improving policies related to basic, translational and clinical research, and matters of quality of life. Particularly, NBTS was pleased to see the enactment of the 21st Century Cures legislation, which included a number of important policy solutions as well as funding for the Cancer Moonshot.

We urge the 115th Congress to continue working aggressively to develop and advance patient-focused policy that provides robust funding for medical research as well as programs aimed at accelerating drug discovery and development in order to improve and/or save the lives of many Americans, including the nearly 700,000 living with a brain tumor.

National Brain Tumor Society requests that Congress supports the following funding and policy proposals in Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018:

Medical Research Funding:

- Appropriate full funding for the 21st Century Cures legislation, including the Cancer Moonshot, and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) efforts to accelerate drug development.
- Appropriate a robust increase for National Institutes of Health (NIH) and a proportional increase for the National Cancer Institute to raise funding levels to keep pace with inflation and the professional judgment of the NCI.
- Appropriate \$60 million for the Peer Review Cancer Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs of the Department of Defense, and include adult and pediatric brain tumors as topics eligible for funding.

Public Policy:

- Enact the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act of 2017 (S.292 Reed/Capito/Van Hollen/Isakson, H.R.820 McCaul/Speier/Butterfield/Kelly) to improve biospecimen collection in childhood cancer, improve data collection and tracking of childhood cancer incidences, and stimulate the development of childhood cancer survivorship models. Pediatric brain tumor research and care would benefit greatly from this legislation.
- Ensure brain tumor patients have access to high-quality, specialized, affordable care in any change to, or replacement of, the Affordable Care Act.
- Enact the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act so brain tumor patients who must access patient-administered anti-cancer medicines can do so affordably.

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