



## National Brain Tumor Society 2018 Legislative Agenda

During the first year of the 115th Congress, the brain tumor community was active 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.

We were pleased that Congress has continued the commitment to fund vital medical research and hope to see that commitment continue in 2018.

We urge Congress to use the remainder of the 115<sup>th</sup> 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 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019:

### **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 the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and a proportional increase for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), 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 brain cancer 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 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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