



National Brain Tumor Society Public Policy and Advocacy Update Vol. 8, No. 7

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GBM Awareness Day A Success

The first-ever Glioblastoma Awareness Day was held on July 17th, and the brain tumor community and beyond joined together to raise awareness for this devastating disease and honor those who have been affected by a glioblastoma (GBM). The United States Senate hosted a reception to honor the day, following its support of a federal resolution to declare July 17, 2019 Glioblastoma Awareness Day, and people from across the US joined together to raise awareness. [Read more about the day here.](#)

PCHETA Introduced in Senate

Together, we can also celebrate that the [Palliative Care & Hospice Education and Training Act \(PCHETA\)](#) was introduced in the Senate earlier this month. This bill has strong support in the House of Representatives, and we've been working toward introduction in the Senate -- including as one of our asks at Head to the Hill this year -- and ultimately passage by Congress. We're now one step closer to that goal!

Now, we need to increase support in the Senate through cosponsorship, and you can make a big difference right away. We're asking that you contact your senators to ask for their support on this bill. [Take action now!](#)

Please [click here to read the press release](#) from the original sponsors of the bill (S. 2080), Senators Baldwin and Capito, which includes a quote from David Arons, National Brain Tumor Society's CEO. We would like to express our gratitude for your passion and dedication to brain tumor advocacy -- it is so impactful for our community!

August Recess: In-District Meetings

Keep an eye on your inboxes next week for information on how you can build upon your advocacy activities year-round by organizing a meeting with your members of Congress while they're back in their home states during the upcoming [August Recess](#). We'll provide updated information for the public policy issues we're advocating for right now. In the meantime, [view this web training](#) which provides background and instructions on how to hold an in-district meeting. While you're at it, check out our [Tools and Training page](#) for more educational videos on various advocacy topics. Email us at advocacy@braintumor.org if you have any questions.

Tumor Treatment Field Therapy Update

We applaud [Medicare's coverage decision for Tumor Treatment Field Therapy](#) for GBM. Medicare's decision is a patient advocacy win! This coverage determination will help patients access potentially life-extending treatment while reducing affordability as a barrier to glioblastoma care. The new Medicare policy for covering TTFT will go into effect on September 1, 2019. [Read more and find helpful links here.](#)

Congress Takes Steps to Secure Funding for Medical Research

Before finalizing spending bills each year, Congress must agree on the overall budget for the federal government's next fiscal year. Following the "top line" budget agreement, appropriations committees can work out how much to fund each program and agency within the federal government. The next fiscal year begins October 1, and Congress is working to pass appropriations before that date. Recently, those top

line budget numbers for both FY2020 & FY2021 passed the House, and the Senate is expected to pass it this week before breaking for August Recess.

This is a step in the right direction, and we'll continue to advocate for increased funding for medical research through the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. [Click here to send an email to your members of Congress](#) to advocate for this critical research now! For more information about medical research funding and why it's important to brain tumor patients and their families, [view a pre-recorded educational webinar here](#). *(Please keep in mind that this was recorded in 2018, so while the how & why are still relevant, the budget numbers discussed in the webinar are not up to date).*

National Brain Tumor Society unrelentingly invests in, mobilizes, and unites our community to discover a cure, deliver effective treatments, and advocate for patients and care partners. Our vision is to conquer and cure brain tumors - once and for all.

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