



National Brain Tumor Society - Public Policy and Advocacy Update Vol. 8, No. 3

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ACT NOW: White House Proposes Cuts to Research

The White House has released its Fiscal Year 2020 budget, and it includes a reduction in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). At a time when brain tumor patients need more research and better treatments, we oppose any efforts that would slow progress and innovation. Please [click here to read our letter to the president and Congress, and SIGN our online petition](#) by April 1 to make sure your voice is heard in Washington.

Head to the Hill Registration Closing Soon: We Need You

As is clear, Congress needs to hear - now more than ever - that any cuts to research funding are unacceptable while brain tumor patients still have too few treatment options and no cure available. You can help influence their final decision on the medical research funding level! [Join us in Washington, DC for Head to the Hill 2019](#) on May 5-7 and use your voice to make a difference for brain tumor patients now and in the future. Brain tumor patients need more research, not less.

Brain Tumor Awareness Month - Join the Movement!

Every year, May is observed nationally as Brain Tumor Awareness Month, and we are asking you to join in our efforts to raise awareness by requesting that May is also proclaimed Brain Tumor Awareness Month in your home state. What is a proclamation? A proclamation is issued by the Office of the Governor to provide recognition for special events or significant issues. The goal of a proclamation is to honor and celebrate events or to increase awareness of significant issues of importance.

[Click here to fill out a brief form](#) and begin the process of requesting a Brain Tumor Awareness Month Proclamation in your state. A member of the Public Policy & Advocacy staff will then contact you to assist in your efforts. Act soon! Proclamation requests are often required several weeks in advance.

Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act Introduced in Congress

Earlier this month, a bill to address cost disparity between intravenous and oral chemotherapy treatment was introduced in both the United States [Senate](#) and [House of Representatives](#). This bill would help brain tumor patients who must access patient-administered anti-cancer medicines to do so affordably. We've advocated for this in years past, and we are seeing strong support in both chambers of Congress this session. We will continue to track this bill and call on our advocates for support soon.

We thank the original sponsors of this bill, including: Rep. Brian Higgins (NY-26), Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY-2), Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-6), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12), Senator Jerry Moran (KS), Senator Tina Smith (MN), Senator Roger Wicker (MS), and Senator Chris Murphy (CT).

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) News

In early March, news broke that Dr. Scott Gottlieb was stepping down as the FDA Commissioner and that Dr. Ned Sharpless - who had been Director of the NCI - would assume the role of Acting Commissioner. The FDA serves an important role for the brain tumor community, as it is responsible for overseeing clinical trials and approving any potential new medicines in the United States. We thank Dr. Gottlieb for his work while leading the FDA, and look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Sharpless in his new position at the agency.

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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