



## **National Brain Tumor Society Public Policy and Advocacy Update Vol. 8, No. 9**

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### **Update: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriations**

Today is the first day of Fiscal Year 2020, but Congress has yet to appropriate funding levels for the new fiscal year. Instead, they have passed a continuing resolution, or CR, that will fund the government at Fiscal Year 2019 levels through November 21. This allows Congress some extra time to come to an agreement on the many aspects of the federal budget.

Although the budget is not yet finalized, there are many reasons to be optimistic. Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have proposed increases to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), as well as the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP), which has included "brain cancer" and "pediatric brain tumors" as eligible funding topics in previous years. In addition, the Senate has allocated \$25 million to fund the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, and we will be working with our champions in Congress to make sure that funding is included in the final version of the budget to ensure the success of the STAR Act. We'll provide updates as the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process continues.

### **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Recap**

As we mentioned last month, September is observed annually as [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month \(CCAM\)](#) in the United States. This month is a time to recognize and honor children that have been affected by cancer and the families that care for them, while highlighting the critical need to support research that can lead to safer and more effective treatments for our most vulnerable patients.

National Brain Tumor Society's Chief of Community & Government Relations, Danielle Leach, and Public Policy Associate, Lisa Peabody, joined with childhood cancer organizations in Washington, DC this month at various events, including the Childhood Cancer Summit. The Summit is organized by the U.S. House of Representatives Childhood Cancer Caucus, and focused on efforts by NCI and private partners to improve data collection and aggregation across all technical platforms. They believe the collection of data from multiple pediatric cancer types over multiple years will lead to a greater understanding of pediatric cancer. The ultimate goal is to generate new interventions that don't have the level of toxicities of current treatments and to eliminate cancer recurrence. In addition to the Summit, we attended CureFest for Childhood Cancer and spoke to many families affected by brain tumors.



In addition to our efforts during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, NBTS works year round to find better treatments and a cure for pediatric brain tumors. To learn more about those efforts as part of the Defeat Pediatric Brain Tumors Research Collaborative, [read our latest blog post for an update on the progress made in 2018 and current work taking place in 2019.](#)

## 2019 Congressional Champions

On September 24, National Brain Tumor Society presented 2019 Congressional Champions Awards to five members of Congress who showed extraordinary leadership to advance brain tumor research and care. We congratulate and thank the following award recipients for their dedication to the brain tumor community:

- Senator Steve Daines (R-MT)
- Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)
- Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI)
- Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX)
- Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL)

## National Brain Tumor Society Events

The Fall is a great time to join other members of the brain tumor community at an event in your area. See below for information on our Signature Events in October and Community Events in the coming months.

### Signature Events

- [Race For Hope Philadelphia - Saturday, October 12, 2019](#)
- [Sacramento Brain Freeze - Saturday, October 19, 2019](#)
- [Boston Brain Tumor Walk - Sunday, October 20, 2019](#)

### Community Events

- [2019 Jenny Tawes 5K Run/Walk for a Brain Cancer Cure](#) - October 12, Crisfield, MD
- [2019 Zombie 5K Run/Walk](#) - October 26, 2019, Cromwell, CT
- [2019 SJDJ Dancing for a Cure](#) - November 3rd, 2019, Cupertino, CA

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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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