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August 11, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rodgers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rodgers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the American Brain Coalition (ABC) and for myself, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in championing two years of sustained and meaningful growth in biomedical research funding, and for your support of the important BRAIN Initiative. The ABC is hopeful that the bill (H.R. 5926) will fund the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at the Senate level of \$34.1 billion.

The ABC is a non-profit organization comprised of many of the leading patient advocacy and voluntary health organizations, as well as professional neurological, psychological, and psychiatric associations in the United States. We are proud to have the support of a small number of publicly-traded corporations that actively engage in brain-related research. Together, we seek to advance the understanding of brain functions and reduce the burden of brain disorders through public advocacy with the Congress, the administration, and the general public.

The economic and human impact of brain diseases is enormous and growing rapidly. Your bipartisan commitment to robust and sustained growth in the financial support for the NIH is essential for researchers to address sustained and emerging scientific opportunities, which in turn will bring hope to patients. Our particular interest in diseases and disorders of the brain is fundamental to improving the health of the American people. Building off the investments made by the Committee for FY 2016 will allow new treatments to be brought to patients and ensure that we are able to maintain America's role as leader in innovative biomedical research.



We are especially grateful for the Committee's support of the BRAIN Initiative, a unique and focused program that will unite many scientific disciplines in understanding the single most complex organ in the human body. Learning how the brain works – when it is working correctly and when it is not – is critical to addressing the full spectrum of brain disorders afflicting persons of every age.

ABC members have noted the language included in the House Committee Report that asks NIH to ensure that funding for basic research in the intramural program does not fall below 55 percent, as well as that addressing partnerships to find private support for unfunded applications. Both of these items have merit and ABC looks forward to reviewing the Committee's future action in this regard.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff in the months ahead to secure the proposed \$34.1 billion appropriation for the NIH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet L. Hieshetter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Janet Hieshetter  
Chair  
American Brain Coalition



A strong and powerful voice for the 50 million people with disabling brain disorders, bringing together organizations that represent concerned and interested patients, families, and professionals.



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