



# Capitol Hill Day



## SfN's 2025 Congressional Asks

### Support robust funding to neuroscience research in FY 2026

- **SfN calls on Congress to:**
  - Preserve and protect federal resources for biomedical research in the current challenging funding environment.
  - Ensure that federal funding for biomedical and neuroscience research remains steady, predictable, and robust. The health of the federal research enterprise is necessary to ensure researchers can continue to make discoveries that improve our nation's health, propel the economy, and keep the United States at the forefront of scientific innovation.
- **To best support NIH advance neuroscience, Congress should:**
  - Increase NIH base-level funding to at least **\$51.303 billion** in FY 2026 and restore BRAIN Initiative funding to the FY 2023 level of **\$680 million**. Congress must provide as much funding as possible to meet the need for investment in this groundbreaking research and technology.
  - Provide **\$9.9 billion** for NSF and **\$1.05 billion** for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program, demonstrating Congress' commitment to scientific research and discovery.

### Stability for the research enterprise is crucial and recent actions by the Administration have destabilized it

- **SfN call on Congress to:**
  - Encourage the Administration to halt destabilizing activities.
- **Additional Information and Context:**
  - Recent federal agency communication and funding freezes, workforce layoffs, the breakdown of regular order and processes, and the potential for a government shutdown have left neuroscientists deeply concerned about whether their vital work will continue. Reliable funding allows researchers to plan long-term studies, develop technologies, and engage in groundbreaking science without disruption.
  - We need Congress to protect congressionally approved funding for biomedical research and the scientific workforce and avoid potential government shutdowns that have devastating impacts on biomedical research efforts and discoveries.
  - Congress must also oppose damaging cuts to NIH research, including efforts to cap facilities and administration (F&A) grant costs at just 15%. F&A costs are an essential component of biomedical research, including construction and upkeep of laboratory facilities, safety measures and security personnel, and other critical infrastructure and functions. If the NIH F&A reimbursement rate is capped at 15%, research institutions of all sizes would have to downsize their biomedical research programs; they would not have funds to cover the costs of laboratories and expenses currently paid by F&A reimbursement. Thousands of skilled workers would lose their jobs along with a larger number of jobs in their communities due to reduced economic activity, and tragically, some independent biomedical research institutes would be forced to close. This would inherently result in less research activity and fewer discoveries being made in the US.

**Support the ethical and responsible use of animals in biomedical research that is already well-regulated.**

- **SfN calls on Congress to:**
  - Support the vital use of appropriate animal models in biomedical research across all research agencies specifically within HHS as well as the Department of Veteran's Affairs where efforts have advanced to eliminate the use of canines, felines, and non-human primates (NHPs) in research within the next year. Without animal models, progress in understanding many diseases and conditions will be severely hampered if not outright halted.
- **Additional Information and Context:**
  - Animal research, including research with canines, felines and NHPs is already well regulated and monitored under existing rules, including both federal oversight and local monitoring at research facilities and institutions. This essential research should not be further restricted or regulated.
  - Animal models in biomedical and neuroscience research are essential and irreplaceable. Research using animal models has contributed to nearly every biomedical advancement of the last century, including vaccines, every prescription medication needed today, and groundbreaking discoveries in neuroscience, such as deep brain stimulation.
  - Federal agencies including FDA and NIH have recently announced policies aimed at reducing the use of animal models in biomedical research and advancing the adoption of new approach methodologies (NAMs). While the thoughtful incorporation of validated and appropriate NAMs in biomedical research is justifiable, these tools must complement, not replace, proven animal models. A hybrid approach, combining NAMs with essential animal models, enables researchers to refine their studies, reduce the number of animals used, and enhance the efficiency of biomedical research.

**Visit a lab in your district to learn more about the important work being done.**

- Upcoming congressional recesses provide excellent times to visit the lab.

**Join the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus in the House of Representatives.**

- To join the CNC, please contact Tyler Adams (Rep. Mike Thompson) or Matt Calogero (Rep. Morgan Luttrell).