

House Approves Increased ALS Research Funding

The House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee approved \$20 million in fiscal year 2020 for the DOD ALS Research Program (ALSRP) – doubling the funding amount. This is a huge achievement in a program area that rarely sees increases of such magnitude, and it is a direct result of the advocacy of The ALS Association and advocates like you.

The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) Subcommittee approved \$10 million in fiscal year 2020 funding for CDC National ALS Registry, consistent with the previous year, and \$41.084 billion for the National Institutes of Health, a \$2 billion increase over fiscal year 2019 funding.

These results were achieved through a strategic campaign The ALS Association designed last year that included consultations with researchers, direct lobbying of key members of Congress, “dear colleague” letters to show strong bipartisan support, securing champions on the key subcommittees, and full engagement of advocates like you, who are critically important to whether or not members of Congress support our efforts.

We expect these subcommittee recommendations will be passed by the full House. Now, our focus needs to be on the Senate, which still must complete markup of its own Defense and LHHS bills. After that, any differences in program funding will be hashed out in a conference committee between the House and Senate.

The ALS Association remains laser-focused on increasing federal investments in ALS research, collaborating with the federal government to maximize the impact of research dollars, and making sure the research we fund complements public and private investments across the research continuum.

Increased investment in ALS research at ALSRP, the National ALS Registry, and NIH will support groundbreaking early-stage ALS research and the collection of critical data that can help scientists learn the causes of ALS and how it can be treated and cured.