

Contact Your Member of Congress during Brain Tumor Awareness Month

The month of May is a very busy one for Congress, as both the House and Senate work through important budgetary issues. Many of these issues, and other bills pending in Congress, relate to brain tumor research.

Please take the time to contact your two Senators and your Representative in the U.S. Congress to express support for the important initiatives below. Feel free to cut and paste the sample message below into an email, and personalize the opening paragraph with a description of how brain tumors affect you. To find out who represents you in Congress, click the attached links:

Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

House: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Sample Letter

Dear (Member of Congress),

As a brain tumor patient/family member, I urge you to support efforts to raise awareness of and increase federal research on brain tumors. May is "Brain Tumor Awareness Month," and as your constituent I urge you to support these specific brain tumor initiatives in Congress:

- **Supporting coverage for pre-existing conditions:** In February 2017, the ABTA signed on to a letter to Congress stressing the importance of protecting access to comprehensive and affordable coverage for patients with pre-existing health conditions.
- **Brain Cancer Research:** ABTA led efforts that resulted in a [bipartisan letter](#) signed by 28 members of the U.S. House of Representatives requesting expanded research opportunities for brain cancer.
In May 2016, the [Senate and House Committees on Appropriations](#) approved legislation that provides for the inclusion of "brain cancer" among the disorders eligible for study by the Department of Defense's (DoD) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). This provision was included in the fiscal year 2017 Defense Appropriations Act.
- **Childhood Cancer STAR Act (H.R. 3381/S. 1883):** Expands opportunities for childhood cancer research, improves efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences, enhances the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, and ensures publicly accessible expanded access policies that provide hope for patients who have run out of options. View the summary [here](#).
- **Medical Debt Relief Act (H.R. 2362/S. 2592):** Requires credit reporting agencies to remove medical debt from a credit report within 45 days of the debt being either settled or paid in full. [ABTA signed a letter](#) in support of this legislation.

