



DATE: February 7, 2022

TO: The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Chairwoman
The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Ranking Member
U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health

FROM: David Arons, Chief Executive Officer
Danielle Leach, Chief of Community and Government Relations
The National Brain Tumor Society

National Brain Tumor Society submits the following statement for the February 8, 2022, U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health hearing, "*ARPA-H: The Next Frontier of Biomedical Research*." We respectfully request that this statement be entered into the hearing record.

National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) is the largest patient advocacy organization in the United States committed to curing brain tumors and improving the lives of brain tumor patients and their families. Our vision of conquering and curing brain tumors is powered by our partnerships across science, health care, policy, and the business, nonprofit, and governmental sectors. We fund treatment-focused research and convene those most critical to curing brain tumors once and for all.

We support the Committee's work to bring attention to the proposed ARPA-H program and are pleased that cancer will be one of the primary focuses of the program. The Committee's important work will be further supported by President Biden's recently reignited Cancer Moonshot initiative. NBTS is supportive of both ARPA-H and the Cancer Moonshot initiative and hopes the concerted effort and collaboration across all government agencies and research programs can create the cures and quality of life our brain tumor community urgently needs.

Today, an estimated 700,000 people in the United States live with a primary brain tumor. More than 88,000 new diagnoses are expected in 2022, and an estimated 150,000 additional cases of metastatic brain cancer are further anticipated. A diagnosis comes with a severe impact to patients and loved ones, and certain brain tumors are among the most life-threatening forms of cancer. Brain tumor patients and loved ones need breakthroughs now.

Brain tumors are an excellent focal point for ARPA-H as solving the challenges associated with their treatment offers the potential to yield significant progress for many other disease areas, even beyond cancer. For example, ARPA-H could spearhead innovation in technologies to open the blood-brain barrier to promising drugs that

could benefit patients with brain tumors and other neuro-degenerative diseases. It could also bring forward novel liquid biopsy approaches to evaluating the existence and growth of brain tumor cells and may someday bring about early detection for brain tumors that does not exist today. Finally, the new program, through pushing forward the field of radiographic imaging, could potentially open up new opportunities to know if investigational treatments are working against brain tumors and other brain related diseases in less and non-invasive ways. We urge that as ARPA-H is authorized it be instructed to be inclusive of patient experience and patient advocacy so that the new program is true and authentic to those it is ultimately serving.

ARPA-H is a bold and timely opportunity to build on and leverage partnerships between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including the National Cancer Institute and industry to launch a portfolio of transformational projects to help brain cancer patients and many others. We offer to serve as a resource for the Committee as it addresses ARPA-H and share our thoughts. We look forward to working together, and if you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Danielle Leach, Chief of Community and Government Relations, at dleach@braintumor.org.