



November 18, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1129 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

On behalf of the American Brain Coalition (ABC), I write in support of H.R. 2085, the Mental Health Research Accelerator Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Mike Kelly (R-PA), and respectfully request the House Ways & Means Committee hold a markup to advance the bill this year. H.R. 2085 supports private investment in research related to mental health, a critical need as our country continues to face an unprecedented mental health crisis, and the need for research is outpaced by the available funding.

ABC is a non-profit organization comprising leading US patient advocacy and voluntary health organizations; professional neurological, psychiatric, psychological and scientific associations; and industry partners. Together, we seek to advance the understanding of brain function and dysfunction, and to reduce the burden of brain disorders through public education, engagement, and advocacy with Congress, the administration, and the public. ABC supports efforts that aim to stimulate investment in brain-related research and strengthen the entire research and development system so that neuroscience research can be more quickly translated into life-changing therapies and cures.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), more than 60 million Americans adults, or one in five, experienced some mental illness in 2024. Despite this troubling prevalence, we continue to lack therapies to treat many of these conditions and private investment in mental health research continues to lag. H.R. 2085 would spur private investment in mental health and neurological research by authorizing \$10 billion in tax credits over five years. By making tax credits available, the legislation encourages partnerships between industry and non-profit or academic research institutions.

As Congress considers policies to address mental health, it is critical that they encourage outside investment in mental health and neurological research. Stimulating private investment in this scientific research will drive us toward groundbreaking advances in the mental health and help improve the lives of millions of Americans living with mental illnesses.

As you work to finalize your end-of-year priorities, ABC respectfully requests that the Ways & Means Committee hold a markup on H.R. 2085. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to ABC's Executive Director, Katie Sale, at ksale@americanbraincoalition.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rasenick', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Mark M. Rasenick, PhD
Chair
American Brain Coalition