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September 14, 2022

The Honorable Mike Thompson
268 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Thompson and Kelly,

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the world's largest association of neurologists representing 38,000 professionals, is strongly committed to improving the care and outcomes of persons with neurologic illness in a cost-effective manner. One in six people live with a brain or nervous system condition, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, ALS, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and headache.

The AAN writes to express our support for H.R. 7279, the Mental Health Research Acceleration Act of 2022. We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the importance of cognitive and mental health research. Over 50 million people in the U.S. live with neurologic disease, and we support research that will aid in reducing burden to these patients. We encourage Congress to pass this legislation to promote research benefiting neurodegenerative and psychiatric disease by encouraging public-private partnerships.

The \$10 billion in allocable tax credits created by this bill will allow nonprofits, private companies, and agencies to perform advanced research over 6 years. We believe the translational research promoted by this structure will benefit millions of people in America and globally who suffer from neurologic disease, especially as this population grows from the long-term effects of COVID-19. The AAN thanks you for working diligently on mitigating the high cost of cutting-edge neurologic research and the challenges in developing new market drugs and programs.

As the population ages, we are happy to see a diversity of investments in medical research, including by providing tax credits. If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please contact Hallie Koch (hkoch@aan.com), Government Relations Program Manager, or Derek Brandt (dbrandt@aan.com), Director of Congressional Affairs.

Sincerely,

Orly Avitzur, MD, MBA, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology