



November 22, 2016

Dear President-Elect Donald J. Trump,

Your presidency comes at a time when humanity finds itself at the forefront of breakthroughs in basic science that will allow us to confront cancer with new clinical strategies. Your Administration will have the opportunity to help shape and transform our nation's ability to treat cancer, including brain tumors, which are among the most deadly and debilitating malignancies. As you well know, brain cancer, like all cancers, knows no political party or ideology but, through your actions, you can change and greatly improve the future for all brain tumor patients. We sincerely hope you will take on this mission as a priority of your Administration's health, science, and human services agenda.

Everyone Has a Reason To Fight Brain Tumors

Over a million Americans have either a primary or metastatic brain tumor. These tumors represent a potentially life-threatening disease and modern medicine has yet to substantially slow down or cure the most aggressive brain tumors. For kids, brain tumors are cancer public enemy number one, as the leading cause of cancer-related death in children 19 years old and younger. There is, disappointingly, a lack of treatment options. There are only five FDA-approved treatments in 40 years, for the more than 120 types of brain tumors and these offer only incremental improvements compared to other cancers. In terms of treatment development, brain tumors are also behind other diseases. Yet, we believe that if we can find a cure to a cancer as complex as a brain tumor, it will surely help other diseases. Attached is a [fact sheet](#) about brain tumors in America.

This lack of progress against this disease is completely unacceptable even though there is new science giving us hope.

The Trump Administration Can Make A Difference

As a community of patients, caregivers and friends all pitching in, we are raising money for research and volunteering to help reduce the burden of this disease. However, we need your help. We know you have a reputation for thinking big and, for humanity, what could be bigger than leading the world toward a cure for brain cancer? To that end, we ask that your Administration lead the fight against brain tumors by putting substantial resources and power into the fight against them. The agenda should be twofold:

1. Find cures through aggressive medical research
2. Enable patients of all ages to access cutting edge treatment and clinical trials

Your Administration can get started immediately on both fronts through the following next steps on behalf of children and adults:

- **Triple the amount of federal funding for brain tumor research** and empower the National Cancer Institute to engage in innovative partnerships with industry and nonprofits to find the best new ideas and marshal them into efficient collaboratives for development of new treatments.
- **Create a real pathway for success for brain tumor treatment development** by supporting a bridge to the so-called "valley of death" in drug development. Directing funding to help build an early stage drug development platform, as envisioned by NBTS' "Defeat" brain tumor programs, that would link to innovative clinical trials which will speed up the R&D process.



- **Eliminate barriers** to accelerating discovery and development of new treatments. Help the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence continue to foster patient-centered drug and device development.
- **Invest in the future of "Neuro" talent** including neuro-oncology, neuro-surgery, neuro-radiology, and neuro-pathology along with basic neuroscience.
- **Make the journey through the health system easier and more efficient** for patients and caregivers. As you consider health care delivery policy – we ask that you work to improve patient navigation, patients' understanding of their disease and access to their data, and the ability of patients to participate in clinical trials.

By pursuing an aggressive agenda against brain tumors together with us and many other stakeholders in industry, nonprofits and government, we can help literally millions of Americans over time, drive innovation, and achieve enduring, previously un-imagined results.

In closing, I want to share the words of a patient who shared what a world without brain tumors would look like, "more smiles, laughter, joy...and watching best friends and loved ones grow up and grow old together with me – to live a long and fulfilled life knowing that we defeated this dreadful disease."

Mr. President-Elect – we're all in to find new treatments and cure and help patients and caregivers battling today. We ask you to join us.

Sincerely,
David F. Arons, JD
Chief Executive Officer
National Brain Tumor Society

About National Brain Tumor Society

National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) is the largest nonprofit organization in the U.S. dedicated to the brain tumor community. We are fiercely committed to finding better treatments and driving rapid progress toward a cure for brain tumors. We drive a multi-faceted and thoughtful approach to aggressively influence and fund strategic research, as well as advocate for public policy changes, in order to achieve the greatest impact, results, and progress for brain tumor patients. Money raised by the generous donations of our supporters has directly funded groundbreaking discoveries, programs, clinical trials and policy initiatives. To learn more visit www.brainumor.org