Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Bill
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>President’s FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2017 Epilepsy Foundation Request</th>
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<td>Epilepsy</td>
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**Recommendation:** Appropriate $9,500,000 within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion for the Epilepsy program to direct and support activities that improve quality of life for people affected by epilepsy.

**Background:** In the United States, 2.9 million people have epilepsy, a neurological condition that makes people susceptible to seizures. Ten percent of Americans will experience a seizure in their lifetime, and each year, more than 181,000 develop a seizure disorder or epilepsy for the first time. This means that 5.1 million people in the United States have had a diagnosis of epilepsy or a seizure disorder at one point in their lives. Advances in medical treatment have allowed some individuals with epilepsy to control their condition. However, between one-third to one-half of people with epilepsy have uncontrolled seizures, and at least one-third of them are not receiving the appropriate level of care to manage their condition. Among older children and adults, epilepsy remains a formidable barrier to normal life, affecting school participation and educational opportunities, employment, and overall well-being.

Epilepsy accounts for $19.4 billion in direct costs (medical) and indirect costs (lost or reduced earnings and productivity) each year. Delayed recognition of seizures and inadequate treatment, which may result from lack of specialty care, increases a person's risk of subsequent seizures, brain damage, disability, and death. Epilepsy is a widely recognized health condition, but one that is poorly understood, often leading to stigma in the workplace and in schools.

**Justification:** The Epilepsy Foundation supports continued investment in the CDC’s epilepsy program, which is the only public health program for people with epilepsy that offers a national scope and local community programs. The Department of Health and Human Services initiative, Healthy People 2020, includes the goal to “increase the proportion of people with epilepsy and uncontrolled seizures who receive appropriate medical care,” which can only be accomplished through the CDC epilepsy program. The Epilepsy Foundation supported by a cooperative agreement with CDC has provided education and/or direct training to more than 63,000 law enforcement and first responders, 43,000 school nurses, and 298,000 students and teachers.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released its report on epilepsy: *Epilepsy Across the Spectrum: Promoting Health and Understanding.* In this report, the IOM identified the Epilepsy Foundation and the CDC as leaders in addressing many of its national recommendations. Key consideration and needs identified by the IOM include improved education of health professionals, delivery and coordination of community services, increased public awareness, and better health care outcomes through patient self-management tools. These recommendations can be best achieved through support of CDC work with the Epilepsy Foundation to expand use of model education and awareness programs, increase evaluative research on epilepsy programs, and increased epidemiological and prevention research.
Proposed FY 2017 Report Language: Epilepsy -- Epilepsy. – Nearly 3 million individuals in the U.S. have epilepsy and while new cases are most common among young children, the onset of epilepsy can occur at any age. The Committee has included an increase of $1,500,000 for epilepsy programs to expand telehealth and educational training programs for rural and underserved areas that reach school nurses, child care personnel, first responders, and care providers for seniors, to recognize and respond appropriately to seizures caused by epilepsy or result from trauma and other acute chronic illness.

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