Recommendation
Provide $1 Million increase over the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 enacted level for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)'s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's Epilepsy program in FY 2023.

BACKGROUND
The Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) report on epilepsy, *Epilepsy Across the Spectrum: Promoting Health and Understanding*, identifies the Epilepsy Foundation and the CDC as leaders in addressing many of its national recommendations to eliminate stigma, improve awareness and education, and better connect people with the epilepsies to health and community services. The CDC Epilepsy program is the only public health program specifically related to epilepsy with a national scope and community programs. Focus areas requiring continued and increased investment include:

- **Training for School Staff:** In FY 21, 6,090 school nurses and 177,120 school personnel have been trained on seizure recognition and seizure first aid. On-demand training modules have been developed to scale up training of these key, frontline community members supporting students with seizures.

- **Seizure First Aid Certification:** 14,690 people were certified in seizure first aid in FY 21, in partnership with multiple healthcare professional groups serving minority communities. Continued focus is needed on rural and ethnically and racially diverse communities as nearly 40% of persons diagnosed with epilepsy are Black or Hispanic and many people with epilepsy in those communities have poorer health outcomes.

- **Professional Education in Epilepsy:** To improve care in rural and underserved communities, Project ECHO has educated more than 1,155 primary healthcare providers about managing epilepsy over three years, though more focus is needed on management of severe, drug-resistant epilepsy and quality of care improvement methods. In addition, seven Behavioral Health Outreach webinars were developed as tools for ensuring access to epilepsy knowledge and skills for behavioral and mental health providers.

- **Reducing Barriers to Medication Adherence:** By establishing a regular screening process for identifying and addressing barriers to medication adherence, an Epilepsy Learning Healthcare System (ELHS) is addressing a key health disparity in epilepsy. ELHS has produced eleven tools to help patients and families overcome common barriers to adherence.

- **Supporting Mental Health Needs:** Mental health screenings have been implemented on the 24/7 Epilepsy & Seizures Helpline since people with epilepsy are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, and suicide. Several suicide interventions have been successful. In addition, people with epilepsy are being connected to self-management programs that prevent and decrease depression.

ABOUT THE EPILEPSIES
Epilepsy is a disease or disorder of the brain which causes reoccurring seizures. It is a spectrum disease comprised of many diagnoses including an ever-growing number of rare epilepsies. There are many different types of seizures and varying levels of seizure control. 3.4 million Americans live with active epilepsy including 470,000 children and teenagers. Thirty to forty percent of people with epilepsy live with uncontrolled seizures despite available treatments. Delayed recognition of seizures and inadequate treatment increase a person’s risk of subsequent seizures, brain damage, disability, and death. Epilepsy imposes an annual economic burden of $19.4 billion on the country.

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1 in 26 people in the U.S. will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime

25% of the general public say they would be nervous around a person with epilepsy