



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
112 Hart Senate  
Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

I write to express my strong support for the Society for Brain Mapping & Therapeutics (SBMT)'s federal budget appropriation request. With your help, the funds will bring the world's first Brain Technology and Innovation Park (BTIP) to Los Angeles County. The investment will fast-track treatments for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and brain and spinal cancer, bring quality jobs to a federal opportunity zone, and strengthen LA's status as the Brain Capital of the World.

Neurological diseases and injuries affect millions of Americans, particularly seniors, burdening their families and weakening our economy. Almost thirty-six percent (36%) of residents aged 85 and older have moderate or severe memory impairment and sixteen percent (16%) of households include an individual with brain impairment (Pal, US Pharm., 2018). Many households require a family member to withdraw from the workforce to care for a loved one. A recent study found neurological disorders cost the U.S. \$1.5 trillion annually in economic activity (Kateb et al, Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, 2021). It cannot be overstated—the federal government must act to provide relief, reduce this human and financial burden on our nation.

The proposed BTIP will advance diagnostic techniques, develop therapeutic medical devices and pharmaceuticals, and provide equitable job growth. A state-of-the-art facility, equipped with wet labs, dry labs, animal imaging devices, and a manufacturing incubator, will further attract SBMT's companies to the region. Among SBMT's 700 members are well-regarded companies including Philips Healthcare, Celularity, Medtronic, Stryker, Globus, Olympus, Applied Neuroscience, Novarad, Orthofix, Abbott, Brainscope, IntellxxDNA, Microsoft, Intel, AiM Med Robotics, Raumedic, and Fulgent Genetics.

In addition to helping fund medical breakthroughs, the requested federal investment will promote equitable job growth and strengthen LA's reputation as the capital for brain research. The BTIP and its member companies will need a large workforce of diverse skills sets. To develop the required talent, BTIP will offer job certification programs in a strong and growing field. According to BIOCUM, the life sciences industry, directly and indirectly, provides over 195,000 jobs in LA

county with average annual earnings of \$86,501. The industry hosted the Oscars for Neuroscientists and the First World Brain Expo in LA. Multiple research universities house prominent neuroscience programs in LA. Federal government support will further an already strong R&D ecosystem and could attract and cultivate new companies and solidify Los Angeles as the capital for neurological research.

Society for Brain Mapping & Therapeutics (SBMT) is an ideal partner to bring the world's first Brain Technology and Innovation Park (BTIP) to Los Angeles. SBMT is based in Los Angeles and is comprised of 100,000 expert scientists, researchers, and engineers that are at the forefront of neurotechnology policy, scientific discoveries, and technological development in the field of clinical and translational neuroscience. Among many other contributions, SBMT has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve the VA's care for wounded soldiers, veterans, and civilians by bettering the department's data sharing and collaboration. Additionally, SBMT has been instrumental in the design, formulation, and execution of President Obama's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) initiative and the first and second G20 World Brain Mapping & Therapeutic Scientific Summit.

To summarize, a federal appropriation would yield opportunities for disadvantaged workers to obtain well-salaried jobs in a field prime for medical breakthroughs. Creating the first Brain Technology and Innovation Park will further contribute to job growth in Los Angeles County and solidify the city as the brain capital.

A budget reflects the federal government's values. As you consider federal appropriation requests, please recall that this investment does more than bring historically underserved community members into the scientific field. This investment builds a pipeline between underserved communities and careers as distinguished neuroscientists. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
Supervisor, First District