

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Director Bhattacharya,

As champions of the Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson's Act (P.L. 118-66), we urge you to prioritize the implementation of the National Parkinson's Project, the first-ever federal initiative dedicated to ending Parkinson's disease. The bipartisan law passed the House and with overwhelming support last Congress. It was signed into law on July 2, 2024 and lauded by Parkinson's advocates in communities across the nation. As you likely know, once it is implemented, the National Parkinson's Project will unite experts in a public-private partnership to improve the lives of the one million Americans living with Parkinson's disease.

The law required the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to deliver the National Parkinson's Project Advisory Council's first report to Congress by January 2, 2026. Unfortunately, the Council has not yet been seated despite an open call for nominations that closed in March 2025. The statutory deadline for the release of the report to Congress has already passed and we are concerned that implementation of the law has fallen behind schedule. We urge that the law's implementation be swiftly prioritized as intended by Congress.

The Advisory Council will put forward annual recommendations for priority action to improve health outcomes and quality of life, reduce the financial impact of Parkinson's on families and caregivers, and accelerate research efforts to prevent, diagnose, and cure Parkinson's. This

coordinated effort will help spur new breakthroughs needed to move us closer to a cure. As such, we respectfully request that HHS take the following steps:

1. Seat the Advisory Council on Parkinson's Research, Care, and Services so it may begin its work and meet its statutory responsibilities.
2. Prioritize and expedite further implementation of the National Parkinson's Project by designating appropriate staff, initiating interagency coordination, and establishing internal timelines to ensure compliance with the requirements of the law.
3. Update Congress on the implementation status, expected timeline and any barriers or delays as well as the announced leadership and structural changes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to ensure these changes do not increase the risk of continued implementation delays.

We appreciate your attention to this matter to ensure the necessary prioritization in the implementation of the National Parkinson's Project which in turn will offer hope and support to so many people.

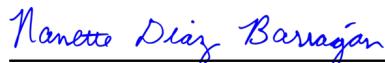
Sincerely,



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



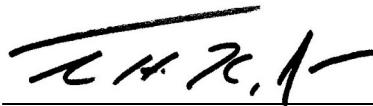
Sahas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress