

Forces. That is more than all the combat deaths that same year in Afghanistan. This is an epidemic and requires more attention and investment, including the BRAIN Initiative put forward by the President.

In sum, the common denominator with many of these mass shootings is a mentally ill individual with access to deadly weapons who has not been treated properly or, many times, whose mental illness has not even been evaluated. America must address these deficiencies for the benefit of our entire society. We must accelerate research to unlock the mysteries of the human brain.

Mr. Speaker, the only question is: Do America's leaders on behalf of the American people have the courage and vision to embark on a serious national conversation about mental health and mental illness?

THE WHITE HOUSE,
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY,
April 2, 2013.

FACT SHEET: BRAIN INITIATIVE

"If we want to make the best products, we also have to invest in the best ideas . . . Every dollar we invested to map the human genome returned \$140 to our economy . . . Today, our scientists are mapping the human brain to unlock the answers to Alzheimer's . . . Now is not the time to gut these job-creating investments in science and innovation. Now is the time to reach a level of research and development not seen since the height of the Space Race."—President Barack Obama, 2013 State of the Union.

In his State of the Union address, the President laid out his vision for creating jobs and building a growing, thriving middle class by making a historic investment in research and development.

Today, at a White House event, the President unveiled a bold new research initiative designed to revolutionize our understanding of the human brain. Launched with approximately \$100 million in the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, the BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative ultimately aims to help researchers find new ways to treat, cure, and even prevent brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, and traumatic brain injury.

The BRAIN Initiative will accelerate the development and application of new technologies that will enable researchers to produce dynamic pictures of the brain that show how individual brain cells and complex neural circuits interact at the speed of thought. These technologies will open new doors to explore how the brain records, processes, uses, stores, and retrieves vast quantities of information, and shed light on the complex links between brain function and behavior.

This initiative is one of the Administration's "Grand Challenges"—ambitious but achievable goals that require advances in science and technology. In his remarks today, the President called on companies, research universities, foundations, and philanthropists to join with him in identifying and pursuing the Grand Challenges of the 21st century.

The BRAIN Initiative includes:

Key investments to jumpstart the effort: The National Institutes of Health, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the National Science Foundation will support approximately \$100 million in research beginning in FY 2014.

Strong academic leadership: The National Institutes of Health will establish a high-level working group co-chaired by Dr. Cornelia "Cori" Bargmann (The Rockefeller University) and Dr. William Newsome (Stanford University) to define detailed scientific goals for the NIH's investment, and to develop a multi-year scientific plan for achieving these goals, including timetables, milestones, and cost estimates.

Public-private partnerships: Federal research agencies will partner with companies, foundations, and private research institutions that are also investing in relevant neuroscience research, such as the Allen Institute, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Kavli Foundation, and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

Maintaining our highest ethical standards: Pioneering research often has the potential to raise new ethical challenges. To ensure this new effort proceeds in ways that continue to adhere to our highest standards of research protections, the President will direct his Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues to explore the ethical, legal, and societal implications raised by this research initiative and other recent advances in neuroscience.

BACKGROUND

In the last decade alone, scientists have made a number of landmark discoveries that now create the opportunity to unlock the mysteries of the brain, including the sequencing of the human genome, the development of new tools for mapping neuronal connections, the increasing resolution of imaging technologies, and the explosion of nanoscience. These breakthroughs have paved the way for unprecedented collaboration and discovery across scientific fields. For instance, by combining advanced genetic and optical techniques, scientists can now use pulses of light to determine how specific cell activities in the brain affect behavior. In addition, through the integration of neuroscience and physics, researchers can now use high-resolution imaging technologies to observe how the brain is structurally and functionally connected in living humans.

While these technological innovations have contributed substantially to our expanding knowledge of the brain, significant breakthroughs in how we treat neurological and psychiatric disease will require a new generation of tools to enable researchers to record signals from brain cells in much greater numbers and at even faster speeds. This cannot currently be achieved, but great promise for developing such technologies lies at the intersections of nanoscience, imaging, engineering, informatics, and other rapidly emerging fields of science and engineering.

KEY INVESTMENTS TO LAUNCH THIS EFFORT

To make the most of these opportunities, the National Institutes of Health, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the National Science Foundation are launching this effort with funding in the President's FY 2014 budget.

National Institutes of Health: The NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research—an initiative that pools resources and expertise from across 15 NIH Institutes and Centers—will be a leading NIH contributor to the implementation of this initiative in FY 2014. The Blueprint program will contribute funding for the initiative, given that the Blueprint funds are specifically devoted to projects that support the development of new tools, training opportunities, and other resources. In total, NIH intends to allocate approximately \$40 million in FY 2014.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency: In FY 2014, DARPA plans to invest \$50 million in a set of programs with the goal of understanding the dynamic functions of the

brain and demonstrating breakthrough applications based on these insights. DARPA aims to develop a new set of tools to capture and process dynamic neural and synaptic activities. DARPA is interested in applications—such as a new generation of information processing systems and restoration mechanisms—that dramatically improve the way we diagnose and treat warfighters suffering from post-traumatic stress, brain injury, and memory loss. DARPA will engage a broad range of experts to explore the ethical, legal, and societal issues raised by advances in neurotechnology.

National Science Foundation: The National Science Foundation will play an important role in the BRAIN Initiative because of its ability to support research that spans biology, the physical sciences, engineering, computer science, and the social and behavioral sciences. The National Science Foundation intends to support approximately \$20 million in FY 2014 in research that will advance this initiative, such as the development of molecular-scale probes that can sense and record the activity of neural networks; advances in "Big Data" that are necessary to analyze the huge amounts of information that will be generated, and increased understanding of how thoughts, emotions, actions, and memories are represented in the brain.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 252. An act to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

The message also announced that the Senate concurs in the amendment of the House to bill (S. 793), "An Act to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to You as a Nation in the midst of great uncertainty and worry. As people look for causes and solutions, the temptation is great to seek ideological position.

We ask that You might send Your Spirit of Peace and Reconciliation, that instead of ascendancy over opponents, the Members of this people's House, and all elected to represent our Nation, might work together, humbly, recognizing the best in each other's hopes, to bring stability and direction toward a strong future.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FUDGE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CALLING ON SENATE TO PASS CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House-passed continuing resolution and I call for its passage in the United States Senate.

The House-passed resolution ensures that our government remains open and operational; it ensures that our military personnel will continue to receive protection in the field and pay at home; and it guarantees continued care for our veterans. It protects individ-

uals, families, and small businesses from the harmful effects of ObamaCare; and it holds the line on spending—the most critical fiscal issue currently facing Washington and the American people.

The United States Senate should join the House and pass this fiscally responsible measure and avert a government shutdown.

ACA ENROLLMENT

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beginning of a new era in American health care. In less than a week, Americans across the country will be able to enroll in health insurance marketplaces, more commonly known as health exchanges. Americans will no longer be subjected to annual limits on their coverage or refused insurance because of a pre-existing condition. We as a Nation will be that much closer to ensuring that every American has access to high quality and affordable health care.

The United States is undoubtedly home to the world's best doctors, hospitals, and health care providers; and, starting January 1, more than 6 million children, seniors, women, and men will be able to access world-class care at less than \$100 a month. I certainly believe that's something worth celebrating.

HONORING A NEW JERSEY FALLEN SOLDIER—STAFF SERGEANT TIMOTHY RAYMOND MCGILL

(Mr. GARRETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 21, New Jersey and our Nation lost a true hero. Staff Sergeant Timothy Raymond McGill was killed in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After graduating from Ramsey High School in 2001, Staff Sergeant McGill joined the Marines and later deployed to Iraq. In 2008, he joined the Rhode Island National Guard, basically to chase his dream of joining Special Forces. Then, in 2011, Staff Sergeant McGill was made a weapons sergeant and was most recently assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, Army National Guard, in Middletown, Rhode Island.

In between these deployments, Staff Sergeant McGill volunteered at the Ramsey Fire Department back home in the State of New Jersey. You see, Staff Sergeant McGill was always committed to his community and to this country. He was truly one of the best and the brightest of the Fifth Congressional District.

My prayers are with the family of Staff Sergeant McGill.

SEQUESTRATION AND EDUCATION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a government shutdown will damage the economic recovery, slow our growth over the long term, and severely undermine our ability to extend our recovery and put people back to work.

As we debate the continuing resolution, I must emphasize investments in education, which are the wisest investments we can make for the long-term fiscal survival of our country. We are jeopardizing our future as a Nation by threatening educational services, as well as eliminating or reducing financial aid for millions of students attending pre-K, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools.

This week, I introduced a resolution to honor our Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I am concerned that these institutions will be disproportionately affected by any cuts. Each day, Historically Black Colleges and Universities help us bridge the achievement gap. The fact is that we cannot move forward as a country until all of our children have the opportunity to succeed academically.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the House floor to speak on an issue that is on the minds of many of my constituents and Americans across the country, and that is ObamaCare.

Enrollment is set to begin in only 5 short days, yet there is far too much confusion about how hardworking Americans will purchase their health insurance through ObamaCare exchanges. One constituent from Missouri's Third District recently contacted my office in a panic about how ObamaCare is going to impact her personally as well as her small business. She has reached out to her accountant, insurance broker, and health care provider, and guess what, Mr. Speaker? Nobody has a clue how this is all going to play out.

Unlike the Federal Government, she is forced to balance both her family's and her business' budget. But when she has no idea how much health insurance is going to cost, she has a very large hole in both her budgets that makes it nearly impossible to plan for other things—whether it's new prescription glasses for her child to see the board at school or hiring a new employee for her small business she hopes to expand.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an isolated incident. I have received hundreds of emails and phone calls expressing real fears from folks about ObamaCare. From what I'm hearing and seeing