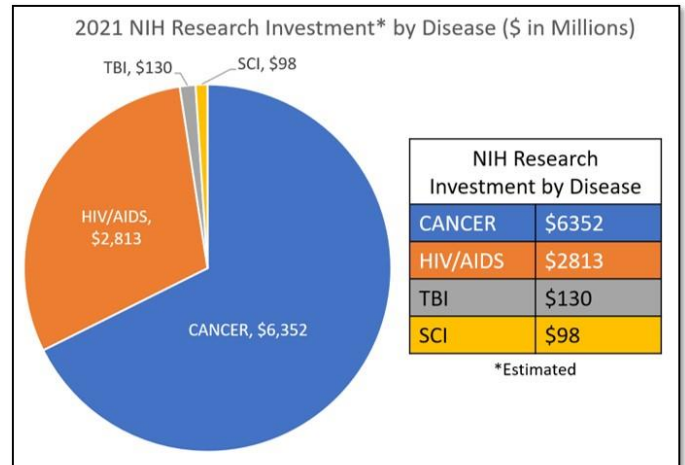




Please support the Wisconsin Spinal Cord Injury Research Grant Act 2019 AB 393/SB 373

Problem:

- 10,500 residents of Wisconsin live with spinal cord injuries (SCI).
- Research spending in this field has primarily been for continuing care and rehab, not for strategies to deliver functional improvement. Considering the enormous costs of care for those living with SCI, these priorities are out of alignment.



Context:

- Lifetime costs of care for an individual with SCI range from \$1.5 to \$4.6 million.
- Total annual cost of caring for people with SCI in Wisconsin is approx. \$550 million.
- The National Institutes of Health fund only approximately 10-15% of all applications in this field, leaving many promising inquiries unfunded or underfunded.

Goal:

- Accelerate and Deliver therapies that enable functional improvement of breathing, bowel, bladder, sexual, and sensorimotor functions of Wisconsin residents living with SCI.
- Establish a collaborative advisory board consisting of WI residents living with SCI, family members of those living with SCI, researchers, and clinicians with expertise in the field to prioritize and recommend funding for research projects.

Request:

- **\$10 million appropriation** from the state budget. Funds would go to two categories of expenditures:
 - **Seed money for innovative research** available to any Wisconsin institutions conducting research into device, pharmacologic, biologic, and rehabilitation strategies and techniques.
 - **Push innovation forward**—from lab to clinical trial to industry.

Projected benefits:

- By moving the research to the clinic, WI would see an enormous **reduction in the costs of care**. Any improvement to the consequences of these injuries such as recovery of breathing/bowel/bladder/sexual function and mobility would additionally have a significant impact upon quality-of-life and employability.
- Attract neuroscientists and researchers to Wisconsin's biomedical engineering industry.
- Catalyze biotech spin-offs.

For more information, please contact Matthew Rodreick at 612-834-5472 or matthewrodreick@unite2fightparalysis.org

Led by: Unite 2 Fight Paralysis

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