

CONGRESSIONAL EPILEPSY CAUCUS

Recommendation Join the Congressional Epilepsy Caucus in the House or Senate.

BACKGROUND

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.



Nearly 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy, including **456,000 children**.



Epilepsy, seizures, and their severity are different person-to-person, but epilepsy often impacts many aspects of an individual's life including needed health care, employment, education and transportation.



About **one-third of people with epilepsy live with uncontrolled seizures** despite available treatments and many experience challenges affording and accessing needed treatments in a timely manner.



People with epilepsy are more likely to have comorbidities including anxiety, depression, and autism. Stigma and discrimination are still unfortunately common.



Epilepsy or seizures impose an **annual economic healthcare burden of at least \$54 Billion** in the United States.

Congressional caucuses bring members of Congress together around a shared interest to consider policy solutions. In February 2023, Representatives Greg Murphy, M.D. (NC-3) and Jim Costa (CA-21) launched the Epilepsy Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Eric Schmitt (MO) and Amy Klobuchar (MN) launched the Epilepsy Caucus in the U.S. Senate in February 2024.

The Epilepsy Caucus will focus on:

- Raising awareness in Congress about the many forms of epilepsy and the needs of people with the epilepsies
- Providing Seizure First Aid training to Congressional Staff and the Capitol Hill community
- Promoting the needs of people with the epilepsies through legislation and appropriations
- Ensuring access to care, treatments and devices
- Advancing data, research and innovation to better understand and treat the epilepsies
- Protecting the rights of people with the epilepsies

Epilepsy Caucus Co-Chairs:

- Representative Greg Murphy, M.D. (NC-03)
- Representative Jim Costa (CA-21)
- Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)
- Senator Eric Schmitt (MO)

To join, contact:

- McLean Piner, mclean.piner@mail.house.gov for Representative Murphy
- Kit Devine, kit.devine@mail.house.gov for Representative Costa
- Ruth McDonald, ruth_mcdonald@klobuchar.senate.gov for Senator Klobuchar
- Peter Dudziak, Peter_Dudziak@schmitt.senate.gov for Senator Schmitt

► **For more information and a list of members, please visit: <https://www.epilepsycaucus.org>.**

Active Epilepsy Prevalence by State

	Estimated Number of Children (ages 0-17) with Active Epilepsy ¹	Estimated Number of People (all ages) with Active Epilepsy ²
Alabama	7,500	54,100
Alaska	1,100	7,200
Arizona	11,200	77,000
Arkansas	4,900	32,800
California	59,800	427,000
Colorado	7,800	56,800
Connecticut	4,500	35,900
District of Columbia	800	7,500
Delaware	1,300	9,700
Florida	27,300	223,900
Georgia	16,700	110,200
Hawaii	2,000	14,000
Idaho	2,600	16,800
Illinois	18,600	136,600
Indiana	10,600	69,500
Iowa	4,400	31,400
Kansas	4,400	29,900
Kentucky	6,800	49,500
Louisiana	7,900	54,900
Maine	1,700	14,100
Maryland	7,900	59,900
Massachusetts	8,400	71,600
Michigan	13,600	108,900
Minnesota	7,400	53,700
Mississippi	5,100	35,700
Missouri	8,300	61,200
Montana	1,400	10,800
Nebraska	2,800	19,600
Nevada	4,400	31,600
New Hampshire	1,500	13,100
New Jersey	12,000	92,700
New Mexico	3,400	23,200
New York	26,600	215,200
North Carolina	15,200	110,100
North Dakota	1,000	7,300
Ohio	16,900	126,400
Oklahoma	6,400	41,100
Oregon	5,400	42,900
Pennsylvania	16,900	133,000
Rhode Island	1,300	11,100
South Carolina	7,100	53,400
South Dakota	1,300	8,900
Tennessee	10,000	73,900
Texas	47,200	292,900
Utah	5,300	29,300
Vermont	700	6,300
Virginia	11,000	84,800
Washington	10,200	74,600
West Virginia	2,500	21,500
Wisconsin	7,900	59,600
Wyoming	800	5,900

1 Zack MM, Kobau R. National and State Estimates of the Numbers of Adults and Children with Active Epilepsy — United States, 2015. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:821–825. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6631a1>

2 Zack MM, Kobau R. National and State Estimates of the Numbers of Adults and Children with Active Epilepsy — United States, 2015. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:821–825. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6631a1>