



**BRAIN ANEURYSM
FOUNDATION**

Raising Awareness. Ending Fear.™

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Brain Aneurysm Foundation Participates in 7th Annual Advocacy Day
on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., March 20**

CNBC Personal Finance Reporter Sharon Epperson joins to raise awareness of brain aneurysm disease and support for "Ellie's Law"

HANOVER, MA, March x, 2018 – The Brain Aneurysm Foundation (BAF), in support of "Ellie's Law" (H.R. 1648), will travel to Capitol Hill on March 20, 2018 to meet with politicians and advocates for brain aneurysm research and funding.

The "Ellie Helton, Lisa Colagrossi, Teresa Anne Lawrence, and Jennifer Sedney Focused Research Act" ("Ellie's Law"), is a bill that seeks federal funding for brain aneurysm research. It is named in honor of Ellie Helton, a 14-year-old Apex, N.C. teenager, who died on July 16, 2014 as a result of a brain aneurysm. The bill provides \$5 million each fiscal year, for five years, to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to conduct or support further comprehensive research on brain aneurysms, studying a broader patient population diversified by age, sex, and race. It also includes funding for research on what causes aneurysms, what causes them to rupture, development of drugs or treatment and much more. Representatives Yvette Clarke (D-NY) and Patrick Meehan (R-PA) introduced the bill on March 21, 2017.

"We are honored to lead a delegation of 70 brain aneurysm survivors, family members, advocates and medical professionals and educate 200 legislators on what needs to be done to combat brain aneurysm disease," said Christine Buckley, executive director of BAF. "Currently the federal government spends 83 cents per person on research annually. 'Ellie's Law' is a positive step forward to increase funding for research in the hopes that it will end suffering."

Brain aneurysm survivor and CNBC Personal Finance Reporter Sharon Epperson will join the BAF on Capitol Hill. Epperson became a BAF spokesperson after she suffered a life-threatening ruptured brain aneurysm in late 2016.

"It is so important to raise awareness and funding for this life-threatening affliction. Like most sufferers of a ruptured brain aneurysms, it wasn't until the aneurysm had ruptured that I knew that I had one," said Epperson. "I was lucky that I had prepared financially for unforeseen situations such as this and eventually I was able to resume my regular routine."

In the United States one in 50 people have an unruptured brain aneurysm. Each year, an estimated 30,000 people suffer a brain aneurysm rupture, 40 percent of which are fatal. Of those who survive, about 66 percent suffer some permanent neurological deficit. The combined lost wages of survivors of brain aneurysm ruptures and their caretakers are approximately \$138 million per year.

Medtronic, one of the world's largest medical technology, services and solutions companies, will join BAF and provide educational materials, including animation of brain aneurysms, as well as medical devices to help explain possible treatments for the disease.

Commented [NM1]: Christine confirming participation.

The Bee Foundation, a non-profit brain aneurysm organization based in Wayne, PA, will also participate.

ABOUT THE BRAIN ANEURYSM FOUNDATION

Founded in Boston and now based in Hanover, Massachusetts, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation is the globally recognized leader in brain aneurysm awareness, education, support, advocacy and research funding.

The foundation's mission is to provide information about and raise awareness of the symptoms and risk factors of brain aneurysms to prevent ruptures and subsequent death and disability; work with medical communities to provide support networks for patients and families; and advance research to improve patients' outcomes and save lives.

Established in 1994, the foundation is led by Executive Director Christine Buckley and has a Medical Advisory Board that comprises more than 30 of the nation's foremost aneurysm experts — neurologists, neurosurgeons, interventional neuroradiologists and other brain aneurysm specialists — from the country's leading hospitals and universities.

For more information about the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, visit www.bafound.org.

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