By ensuring steady and sustainable annual increases to the budget for the National Institutes of Health, Congress can save and improve lives, advance innovation and fuel the economy. Here are some other reasons why Congress must act to #keepNIHstrong.

**DID YOU KNOW**

- **660,000+ U.S. lives** have been lost to COVID-19; economists estimate the coronavirus pandemic will cost the nation at least **$16 trillion**.
- Deaths from **Alzheimer’s disease** increased 145% from 2000 to 2019. In 2021, Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the U.S. an estimated **$355 billion**.

Tremendous progress in the fight against cancer led to a **31% drop in cancer deaths** between 1991 and 2018. Still, 1.9 million **new cancer cases** will be diagnosed and 608,570 people will lose their lives to cancer in 2021. Cancer will cost the U.S. **$281 billion** this year.

Heart disease is the **#1 killer** in the United States, taking 659,041 lives and costing nearly **$220 billion** annually.

Each year, chronic diseases cost the U.S. **3.7 trillion dollars**—that's equal to 1/5th of the U.S. economy.

The value of research-related gains in life expectancy from 1970 to 2000 was **$95 trillion**. Yet, **less than 2%** of the federal budget goes toward medical research and funding the NIH.

**NIH-supported research** is advancing our knowledge and ability to treat disease.