

# Calling All Candidates for Congress: Take a Stand for Faster Medical Progress



As a candidate for Congress, you can take a stand now for lifesaving progress on behalf of the voters you hope to represent, the nation you are prepared to serve, and the global community your leadership can influence.

## **Americans Want Their Elected Leaders to Fight for Progress**

According to a [national public opinion poll](#) conducted in January 2024, 7 in 10 Americans (87% of Democrats, 61% of Republicans, 77% of Independents) say they would be more likely to support a candidate if they favor increased spending on medical and health research.

## **Join Champions From Both Sides of the Aisle.**

Medical progress is not a partisan issue; it is a strategic and moral imperative. Too many Americans die prematurely each year from treatable diseases and conditions. This does not have to be our reality, if we summon the will and leverage our nation's strengths, we can save more than [1 million lives](#) annually.

Members of Congress from both parties are already championing faster medical progress. **Don't wait for election day to join them.**

## **Congressional Champions Fight for:**

**Funding for federal research agencies** that partner with the private sector and patients to drive medical progress. Key agencies include:

- **NIH** funds and conducts noncommercial research that seeds private sector research and innovation, as well as noncommercial clinical and health research that meets compelling public needs.
- **FDA** assesses the safety and effectiveness of new medical advances, and in numerous other ways supports the health and safety of the American people.
- **CDC** works 24/7 to safeguard and bolster the health of every American. As the lead federal agency for public health preparedness and response, CDC is integral to national and global security.
- **NSF** supports research and fosters the STEM workforce needed to ensure national, health, and economic security.
- **ARHQ** is the lead research agency working to ensure medical research and innovation translate into high quality, evidence-based health care.

**A policy environment that supports the roles of both the public and private sector in fueling medical progress.** Medical progress depends on patient input, public and private sector investment, academic research capacity, and other critical variables. The federal government can't do it alone; the private sector can't do it alone; champions for medical progress work to ensure the pipeline functions at maximum capacity.

# Why Champion Faster Medical Progress?



## **Medical Progress Saves Lives.**

Progress in research and development, as well as early detection for some cancers, has saved an estimated [4.1 million lives](#) between 1991 and 2021 alone.

Across the Trump and Biden Administrations, public, private, and nonprofit sector COVID R&D investment has saved more than [3.2 million lives](#) in the U.S. and an estimated \$1.15 trillion in health care costs.

## **Medical Progress Saves Money.**

The human tragedy of Alzheimer's has compelled champions in Congress from both sides of the aisle to fight for faster progress.

Leveraging R&D to prevent Alzheimer's is also a fiscal imperative. In 2022 alone, costs associated with Alzheimer's disease in the U.S. will total \$321 billion. By 2050, yearly costs are expected to increase to just under [\\$1 trillion](#).

## **Medical Progress Fuels Businesses and Jobs.**

Federal investment in research stimulates private sector investment. A \$1 increase in federally funded, noncommercial research stimulates \$8.38 of [industry R&D investment](#).

## **Medical Progress Strengthens the Economy.**

The total economic output of the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry was \$1.65 trillion in 2022, accounting for [3.6%](#) of the total U.S. economic output.

The biopharmaceutical industry directly employed [more than 1 million people](#) in the U.S. in 2022, with approximately 27% of those jobs in the R&D sector. These are high-paying jobs that bolster the entire U.S. economy.

## **Most Americans Agree Research is Underfunded.**

Public opinion continues to strongly align with greater investment for NIH, our [January 2024 survey](#) found that 6 in 10 Americans (73% of Democrats, 60% of Republicans, and 56% of Independents) would be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if they were certain all the money would be spent on additional medical and health research.

**For more examples of the impact of research, check out our [website](#)!**

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**View [2023](#) and [2024](#) Poll Data Summaries or visit our [survey page](#) for other R&D-relevant survey results**

*\*These surveys were commissioned by Research!America and conducted by Zogby Analytics*