



National Alliance on Mental Illness

2018 Legislative Action Agenda

Support the New York State Office of Mental Health's Research Institutes: New York State Psychiatric Institute and Nathan Kline Institute

Research into finding the causes of devastating brain disorders--and eventually figuring out how to treat and prevent them--has always been a leading priority of NAMI-NYS. As scientists work to develop a better understanding of the brain, it is imperative to continue to support research that leads to better treatments and improved medications.

According to the World Health Organization, four of the top ten causes of disability worldwide are severe mental illnesses. Major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder account for an estimated 20 percent of total disability resulting from all diseases and injuries. Based on the National Institute of Health's own estimates, for every research dollar spent, 15 cents is allocated to AIDS, 10 cents on cancer, two cents on heart disease, and less than one cent on schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses. In contrast, the total cost of schizophrenia to society, per research dollar spent, is \$161.26, compared to only \$65.65 for heart disease, \$9.96 for cancer, and \$6.86 for AIDS. While annual deaths from other chronic diseases continue to decline, deaths stemming from mental illnesses continue to increase.

New York is fortunate to have two of the leading research institutes in the world right here in our own state and funded by the New York Office of Mental Health: New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI) and Nathan Kline (NKI) Institute.

It is vital that New York State continues to support funding for NKI and NYSPI so better treatments can be found and, eventually, a cure discovered for brain disorders.

It is also important to continue to expand investments to the early intervention program developed at NYSPI; OnTrackNY. OnTrackNY has helped people with psychosis maintain their recovery, continue their education and seek employment. Communities throughout the state need this life changing program.

Supporting research is economically beneficial to New York State in terms of grant monies brought in, job creation and opportunities, and the potential to ease health care costs by improving and saving lives.