



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami | New York State

2014 Legislative Action Agenda

The Need for Government Sponsored Research of Mental Illnesses

For those living with serious mental illness and for their families, research into finding the causes of these devastating brain disorders--and eventually figuring out how to prevent them--has always been a top priority of NAMI-NYS. As scientists work to develop a better understanding of the brain and how it works, **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.

New York is fortunate to have two of the leading research institutes in the world right here in our own state: New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI) and Nathan Kline (NKI) Institute. These institutions have been ranked in the top 1% of the world's research facilities.

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.

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.

RESEARCH IS OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE