The fight against cancer is not finished. Congress should prioritize funding for projects that leverage effective existing treatments, such as radiation therapy, and novel treatments to improve cure rates and patient outcomes.

**Active Research Funding is Too Low**

- Less than 2% of NCI’s budget goes to radiation oncology research.

**Success Will Come from Combinations of Treatments**

- Effective treatment includes combinations of drugs and radiation; no single treatment alone is enough.

**Cancer Research Funding**

- 1.7 million new cancer cases in 2018.
- Roughly 1 million will be treated with radiation therapy.
- NCI predicts that there will be 20.3 million cancer survivors by 2026.

**Investing in Cancer Research Is Investing in Our Economic Prosperity**

- According to the Milken Institute, every $1 in grants from NIH generates $2.21 in economic growth across the US.

**NCI’s FY18 Budget Is $5.97 Billion**
ASTRO applauds Congress’ long-standing support for biomedical research and appreciates its increase in funding for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The additional funding and structural improvement will help drive advancements in cancer treatment. The federal investment in cancer research has played a role in every major innovation in the fight against cancer, including significant advances in radiation oncology, and has led to a decline in the overall number of cancer deaths in the United States.

Cancer deaths are **down 23%** in the last 21 years. NCI estimates that there will be **20.3 million** cancer survivors by 2026. **Treatments including radiation therapy** are improving.

Over the past 30 years, the **five-year survival rate** for all cancers has **increased** 20% for Caucasians and 24% for African Americans.

**Unpredictable funding** that results from Continuing Resolutions halts cancer research programs, research planning and hiring of new researchers.

Data show that treatments including **combinations of radiation and drugs or immunotherapy** are **more effective** than any single treatment alone.

The President’s budget proposes **cutting $2.3 billion** from the $37 billion NIH budget for FY19, which **could lead** to a **$300 million cut** in NCI’s $5.97 billion budget.

We ask that Congress **reject any proposed cuts** to NIH/NCI and instead **support an increase** in NIH’s total budget of $2.2 billion, with a $410 million increase for NCI.