



GS STRATEGY GROUP

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: BROOKS KOCHVAR, GS STRATEGY GROUP

RE: NIH CANCER RESEARCH

DATE: 05.22.17

In May 2017, One Voice Against Cancer commissioned GS Strategy Group to conduct a national survey among 1,200 likely voters. The research was conducted from May 9-11, 2017, and yielded a margin of error of 2.83% at the 95% confidence level. Interviews were conducted by both landline and cellular telephone. Below are some key findings from this research.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overwhelmingly, Americans find cancer research to be an important cause and favor increased federal funding to help fight this deadly disease. Support for this critical research, and for federal investment in it, is void of the partisanship that drives so many debates in Congress, with strong levels of support from Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

Ultimately, voters would like members of both parties to come together to increase funding for medical research.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CANCER RESEARCH

- Federal support for medical research to cure diseases like cancer was seen as tremendously important by survey respondents (90% extremely/very important). This sense of importance spans the political spectrum, with 97% of Democrats, 91% of Independents, and 82% of Republicans saying federal support is extremely or very important.
- When asked whether Congress should significantly increase its funding for the National Institutes of Health, an organization that supports medical research for diseases like cancer, voters favor significantly increasing the funding by 75% to 18% margin. Democrats (90%), Independents (76%) and Republicans (62%) are all in support.
- Voters desire bipartisan cooperation when it comes to funding cancer research. Ninety-one percent of Respondents agree that cancer research is too important to become a partisan issue and that Congress should find ways to fund this lifesaving research. Eighty-five percent of budget-conscious Republicans agree that Congress should help fund this research at all costs, while Democrats (98%) and Independents (90%) agree with this statement nearly unanimously.

MEDICAL RESEARCH IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY

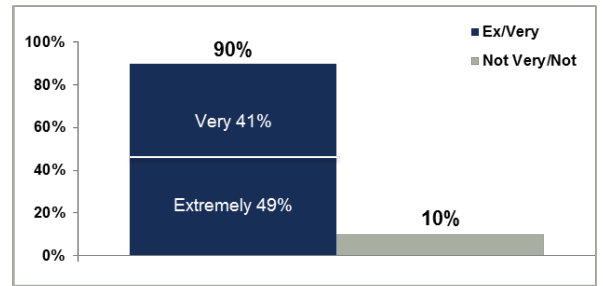
- When informed about the recent passage of a \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$475 million for cancer research, voters favor the increase in funding by 74% to 20%. Democrats (86%), Independents (77%) and Republicans (61%) favor the funding increase.
- More than two-thirds of voters (68%) oppose President Trump's proposed \$5.8 billion cuts to the NIH, including 88% of Democrats, 70% of Independents, and 47% of Republicans.
(NOTE: The budget numbers presented in the survey questionnaire were based on the Administration's "skinny budget" that was released in March 2017. The survey was conducted prior to the release of Administration's detailed budget proposal, which proposes to cut the NIH budget by nearly \$8.2 billion next year, a much larger amount than was presented in the questionnaire.)
- When given the choice between funding the NIH or constructing a border wall, voters choose funding the NIH by 73% to 21%. Even a majority of Republicans (51%) support funding the NIH over the border wall.

STATE AND LOCAL CANCER PREVENTION, AND EARLY DETECTION PROGRAMS ARE ALSO CONSIDERED HIGHLY IMPORTANT COMPONENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

- There is widespread consensus that it is also highly important to support state and local cancer prevention programs. This belief transcends political allegiances with 98% of Democrats, 89% of Independents and 77% of Republican united in the funding's importance.
- Roughly half of all voters (48%) think that Federal funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for cancer prevention and early detection programs in every state should increase. 41% feel it should stay about the same. Only 5% of voters think CDC funding should decrease.
- Moreover, when told of the important state and local cancer prevention programs the CDC oversees each year, voters are even more likely to support Congressional efforts to increase funding for CDC cancer prevention programs.
 - 75% of voters indicate they are more likely to support increased CDC funding knowing the following fact: Screening programs funded by the CDC to prevent breast and cervical cancer have provided over 12.5 million screening exams to more than 5.2 million women who would otherwise not have been screened. These tests have detected more than 60,000 cases of breast cancer, 3,800 cases of cervical cancer, and 176,000 premalignant cervical lesions.
 - 72% voters indicate they are more likely to support increased CDC funding knowing the following fact: In the past year, less than 19 percent of men and women over the age of 50 had a recent colorectal cancer screening. The CDC colon cancer program supports screening services and educational programs to encourage people to get screened for this deadly disease.

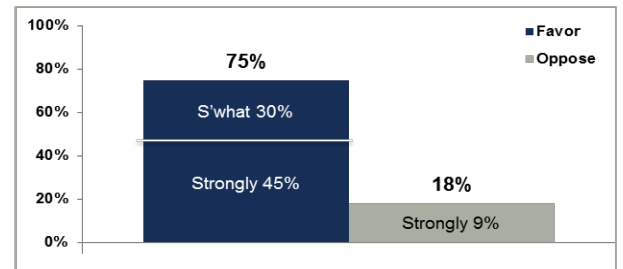
SUPPORTING CHARTS

- How important do you think it is for the federal government to support medical research to find cures for diseases like cancer? Would you say it is extremely important, very important, not very important, or not at all important?



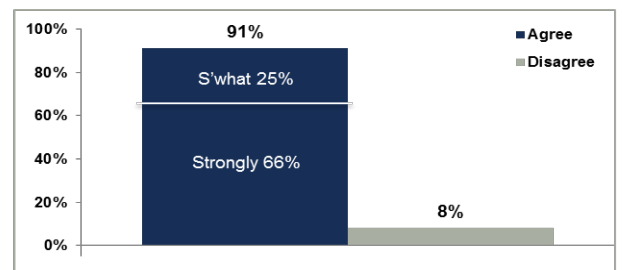
	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Ex/Very	90	97	91	82
Not Very/Not	10	2	9	16
Net Ex/Very	+80	+95	+82	+66

- The National Institutes of Health, or NIH, supports basic medical research that is used by private companies to develop treatments and cures for serious diseases, such as cancer. Do you favor or oppose Congress significantly increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health to promote advancements in medical research for life-threatening illnesses, such as cancer?



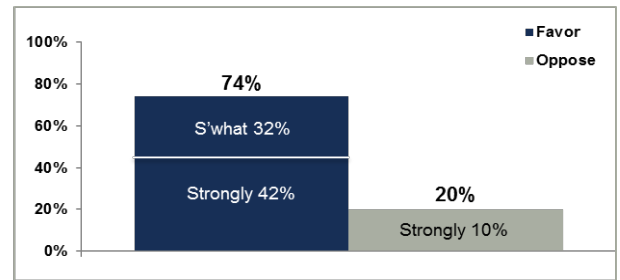
	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Favor	75	90	76	62
Oppose	18	7	17	29
Net Favor	+57	+83	+59	+33

- Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Promoting cancer research is too important to become a partisan issue. Members of Congress from both parties should work together to find a way to fund lifesaving research.



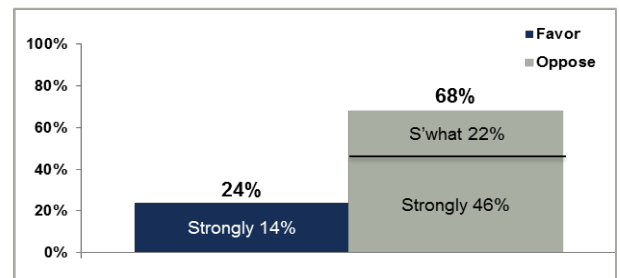
	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Agree	91	98	90	85
Disagree	8	1	8	14
Net Agree	+83	+97	+82	+71

Recently, Congress passed a \$2 billion, or six percent, increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health, including \$475 million for cancer research. Do you favor or oppose the decision to increase funding for medical research by \$2 billion?



	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Favor	74	86	77	61
Oppose	20	10	17	31
Net Favor	+54	+76	+60	+30

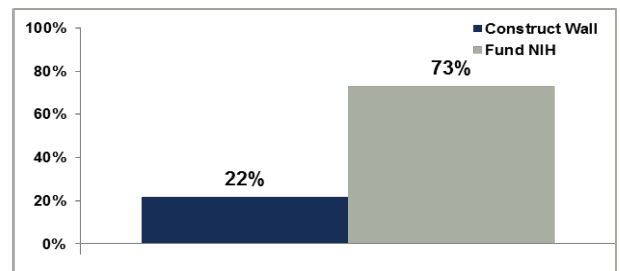
President Trump recently proposed cutting the National Institutes of Health budget by \$5.8 billion or 18 percent of its total budget. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose the decision to reduce the National Institutes of Health budget by \$5.8 billion?



	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Favor	24	10	22	41
Oppose	68	88	70	47
Net Oppose	+44	+78	+48	+6

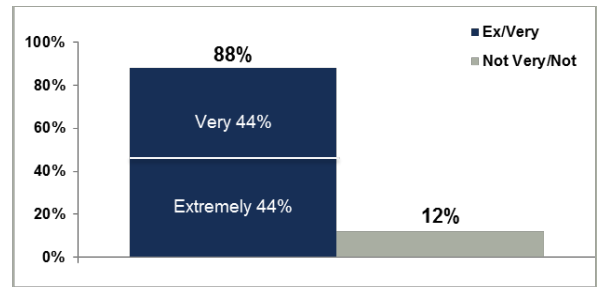
President Trump recently proposed cutting funding for the National Institutes of Health to help pay for the construction of a border wall to address illegal immigration. Knowing this, please tell me which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion:

- We need to construct a border wall to help stop the problem of illegal immigration even at the cost of research funding for treatments and cures.
- Funding for the National Institutes of Health that is used to develop treatments and cures for serious diseases should not be cut to pay for a border wall.



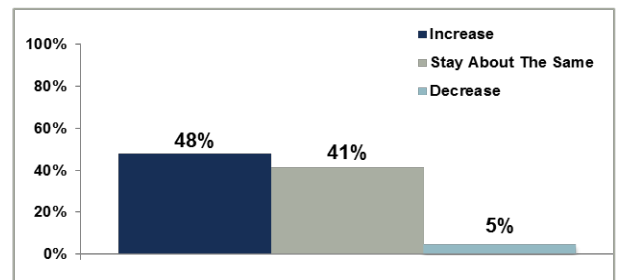
	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Construct Wall	22	6	18	42
Fund NIH	73	91	79	51
Net	+51	+85	+61	+9

■ How important do you think it is for the federal government to support state and local programs that help prevent or detect diseases such as breast cancer, cervical cancer, colon cancer, and prostate cancer? Would you say it is extremely important, very important, not very important, or not at all important?



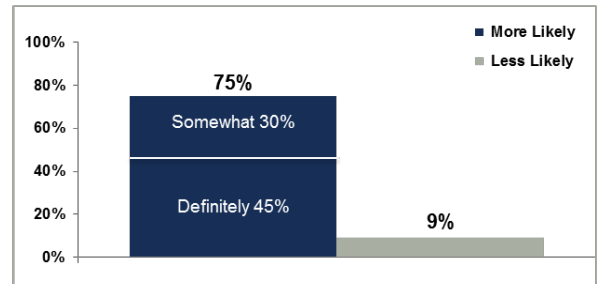
	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Ex/Very	88	98	89	77
Not Very/Not	12	2	10	22
Net Ex/Very	+76	+96	+79	+55

■ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, supports cancer prevention and early detection programs in every state. These programs collect data on the burden of cancer in our communities, support cancer screening services, and provide resources that help educate communities about cancer. Do you think federal funding for the CDC should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?



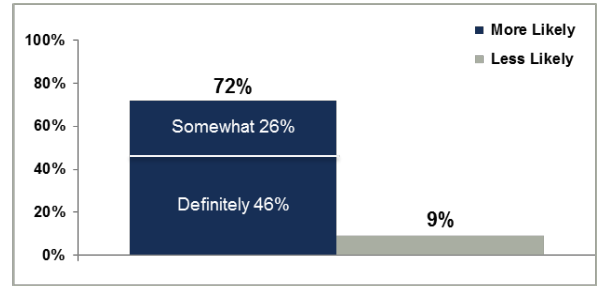
	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
Increase	48	66	46	30
Stay About The Same	41	30	40	56
Decrease	5	1	7	6

■ Screening programs funded by the CDC to prevent breast and cervical cancer have provided over 12.5 million screening exams to more than 5.2 million women who would otherwise not have been screened. These tests have detected more than 60,000 cases of breast cancer, 3,800 cases of cervical cancer, and 176,000 premalignant cervical lesions.



	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
More Likely	75	88	78	60
Less Likely	9	2	9	15
Net More Likely	+66	+86	+69	+45

■ In the past year, less than 19 percent of men and women over the age of 50 had a recent colorectal cancer screening. The CDC colon cancer program supports screening services and educational programs to encourage people to get screened for this deadly disease.



	Overall	Party		
		Dem	Indy	GOP
More Likely	72	86	74	58
Less Likely	9	2	8	16
Net More Likely	+63	+84	+66	+42