



Association of American Cancer Institutes

Statement on Review of NIH Grants by Political Appointees

The [Association of American Cancer Institutes](#) (AACI) is deeply concerned by reports of an executive order that would empower political appointees to determine how the National Institutes of Health (NIH) distributes congressionally appropriated funds. The proposed executive order would require unanimous funding decisions from a board overseen by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) director.

As the only membership association dedicated to academic cancer centers, AACI represents over 100 institutions that conduct a substantial share of cancer research in the United States and rely on predictable federal funding to support this work. Added layers of bureaucracy could significantly slow research progress and hinder lifesaving breakthroughs.

The proposal comes weeks after Congress blocked the implementation of the OMB's proposed [Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance](#), which would require senior political appointees to review discretionary awards to ensure alignment with agency and presidential policy priorities. This bipartisan legislation sent a clear message that Congress opposes efforts to politicize biomedical research and the federal grant funding process. Public sentiment is also largely unfavorable, with [95 percent of nearly 500,000 public comments expressing opposition](#) to the proposed rule.

AACI thanks Senate Appropriations Committee Chair **Susan Collins**, Vice Chair **Patty Murray**, House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member **Rosa DeLauro**, and other champions in Congress for publicly speaking out against the proposal. We urge members on both sides of the aisle to continue asserting congressional authority over federal spending.

AACI knows the real-world impact of funding delays on cancer research and, more importantly, on millions of patients with cancer who can't wait for the latest scientific advances. We ask the president to reconsider issuing the proposed executive order, ensuring that biomedical research funding decisions are made according to the longstanding NIH tenets of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility.