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CAHON Statement on the Proposed NIH Funding Cut

The Chinese American Hematologist and Oncologist Network (CAHON) is a professional organization dedicated to fostering collaboration, education, and career development among Chinese American hematologists, oncologists, and cancer researchers. CAHON recognizes the importance of fiscal responsibility and the need for efficiency in government spending. However, we are deeply concerned that the proposed reductions to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget and the cap on indirect cost reimbursements at 15% will have unintended consequences that undermine scientific progress and patient care.

Sustained NIH funding has been instrumental in driving groundbreaking cancer research, leading to innovative life-saving therapies. Reductions in funding risk delaying critical clinical trials, limiting patient access to promising new therapies, and weakening research institutions' ability to sustain innovation. Furthermore, capping indirect cost reimbursements at 15% would make it difficult for institutions to cover essential operational expenses in research, including laboratory maintenance and administrative support. The rippling effects of these financial constraints could discourage young scientists from pursuing careers in cancer research, ultimately weakening the pipeline of future scientific leaders.

CAHON urges policymakers to explore responsible cost-saving measures without jeopardizing scientific progress or patient care. We support efforts to enhance efficiency and transparency in research funding but emphasize that any budgetary adjustments should be made in a way that protects the integrity and operation of biomedical research. We encourage a reevaluation of the proposed 15% cap on indirect cost reimbursements and advocate for sustained investment in workforce development to support the next generation of cancer researchers and clinicians. CAHON encourages our members and the broader oncology community to engage with state and federal congressional representatives, sharing concerns about the potential impact of these cuts and emphasizing the importance of sustained investment in biomedical research, and work together to find mutually agreeable cost savings and efficiencies. Thoughtful investment in research today will lead to the medical breakthroughs of tomorrow, ensuring better outcomes for patients and a stronger future for cancer research in America.