

Major Overhaul of Grantmaking Risks Undermining Cancer Research and U.S. Scientific Leadership

The undersigning members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition representing millions of patients, survivors, caregivers, researchers, and clinicians, urges the Trump Administration to further evaluate the serious consequences of the Office of Management and Budget proposed rule on federal grantmaking, especially as they relate to the fight against cancer. The proposed changes, published on May 29, could increase political influence in funding decisions and weaken the vital research missions of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Members of OVAC signed onto this statement oppose provisions that would sideline expert peer review in favor of decisions by political appointees using vague, non-scientific criteria. Prioritizing policy preferences over rigorous science threatens progress in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. Additionally, making grants subject to cancellation amid changing priorities would create instability, disrupt long-term projects and clinical trials, introduce inefficiencies and unnecessary delays, and potentially drive talent and resources overseas.

The undersigned members of the OVAC coalition are also concerned the proposed rule could hinder research designed to expand access to cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Targeted studies, such as those looking at differences in cancer outcomes between urban and rural populations, are critical to closing cancer care gaps.

Federal science funding must remain grounded in scientific merit. Decades of peer-reviewed investment have prevented more than 4.8 million cancer deaths since 1991. Preserving this approach is essential for continued advances in care.

We call on the Administration to withdraw or revise this proposal to protect cancer progress. As a unified group advocating for sustained funding increases for the NIH, NCI and CDC cancer programs, we will continue highlighting the importance of sustained federal investments and progress in cancer research to patients and families.

For more information on OVAC, visit www.ovaconline.org.

###