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April 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations
Committee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate
Appropriations Committee
S-146, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

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Renée L. Cruea, MPA

Dear Chair Collins and Ranking Member Murray,

I am Renee L. Cruea, Executive Director of the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research (Academy). It is my pleasure to submit this statement for the record on behalf of the Academy.

The Academy is comprised of more than 200 academic research departments, medical imaging societies, patient advocacy groups, and industry partners. It represents thousands of medical imaging researchers in all 50 states. We are the only advocacy organization representing the broad medical imaging research community that collectively advocates for robust and consistent federal research funding through education.¹ Thus, the Academy strongly supports at least \$51.303 billion for the National Institutes of Health's base appropriation.

The partnership between NIH and America's medical imaging scientists is a unique and highly productive relationship, leveraging our nation's research enterprise to develop pioneering innovative biomedical imaging technologies to transform our understanding of biological and disease processes for improving diagnostics, image-guided therapies, and human health. No other public, corporate, or charitable entity is willing or

¹ <https://www.acadrad.org/about-the-academy/>

able to provide the broad and sustained funding for the cutting-edge basic research necessary to yield new innovations and technologies of the future.

Medical imaging performs central and irreplaceable roles in early disease detection, diagnosis, treatment planning and monitoring. For nearly every patient – nearly every constituent – who receives a cancer diagnosis, suffers a head injury, or experiences any of thousands of other medical issues, the health benefits of imaging and bioengineering research are profoundly felt. Few medical conditions do not already benefit from any of the wide range of clinical imaging modalities, from x-rays to MRI, CT, PET, fluoroscopy, angiography, and ultrasound. The Committee's bipartisan investment in NIH helps make this possible.

The Academy continues to be grateful to Congress for being bipartisan supporters of the NIH. For eight years, 2016-2023, Congress provided consistent, robust funding for the NIH. Now, the NIH is facing a crisis. Due to ongoing administration policies, grants are being cut and the NIH staff reductions in force are gutting the nation's ability to serve as the world leader in biomedical research. Moreover, universities are freezing hiring and admitting fewer graduate students. The Academy is quite concerned that the damage taking place at the NIH will take decades to recover from. It will hurt patients; slow progress on cures and treatments for disease; and rob communities of the economic investments that NIH funding brings to them. We need Congress to preserve and stand up for the NIH, and this includes ensuring that NIH is able to expend appropriations as intended – on the lifesaving research, tools, and diagnostics that result in the direct benefits to patients.

We thank you for holding this hearing. The Academy is grateful for the longstanding bipartisan commitment to ensure that NIH remains a national priority.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Renee L. Cruea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Renee" being more prominent.

Renee L. Cruea, MPA
Executive Director