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Statement from the Council on Competitiveness on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Indirect Cost Reimbursement Directive:

The February 7, 2025, directive from Office of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director, significantly reducing indirect cost reimbursement to 15 percent, has elicited tremendous concern among U.S. universities, medical centers, and others. The reduction, while intended to emphasize efficiency, to reduce waste where legitimate issues have arisen, and to maximize taxpayer investment, will negatively impact ongoing, critical life sciences and medical research at a time when competitors, especially China, are looking for any advantage to seize the lead in the global innovation race, and to dominate critical exponential technologies from AI to the biosciences. The Council on Competitiveness urges the Administration to reconsider the proposal, recognizing the key role research universities and medical centers play as hubs for high-value innovation, with direct economic impact in communities across the United States. Research shows every dollar of NIH funding generates around \$2.46 in economic activity. Most important, these frontier R&D investments power our nation's productivity, driving our economic competitiveness, and ensuring our national security in a time of great global disruption and transformation.