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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AACI Letter Urges Secretary Kennedy, HHS to Protect Federal Funding for Cancer Research

This week, the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) delivered <u>a letter</u> to U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr**., urging him to ensure stable, uninterrupted funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI). Described as the "crown jewel" of American biomedical research, the NIH is an agency of the HHS. The NCI is one of 27 institutes that comprise the NIH.

As a professional association representing over 100 leading academic cancer centers in the United States and Canada, AACI's primary public policy advocacy goal is ensuring robust, predictable federal funding for cancer research. In the letter to Secretary Kennedy, AACI noted that sweeping and arbitrary cuts to funding and staff at the NIH and NCI undermine the very institutions that drive scientific progress. The association underscored the key role of strong bipartisan support of the NIH and NCI in accelerating progress in cancer research. By contrast, <u>funding cuts</u> and <u>workforce reductions</u> threaten future progress, leaving patients' lives in the balance.

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AACI's mission is to accelerate progress against cancer by enhancing the impact of North America's leading academic cancer centers and promoting cancer health equity. For more information, please visit <u>aaci-cancer.org</u>.