

Statement on the President's FY27 Proposed Budget for ONC

The undersigned write to express our disappointment in the administration's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) at \$50,000,000, its lowest funding level since 2008. We strongly request to maintain ONC's budget at its historical level of \$69,238,000, rather than reducing it by nearly 30 percent. Given technological advancements in healthcare delivery, public health preparedness, and biomedical innovation increasingly rely on secure and interoperable data, sustained investment in ONC is essential to maintaining U.S. leadership in health system transformation.

ONC is the backbone of the nation's digital health infrastructure. ONC's leadership in setting interoperability standards and coordinating federal health IT strategy enables seamless data exchange across providers, payers, public health agencies, and patients. This foundation is critical not only for improving care coordination and reducing costs, but also for advancing national priorities such as leading innovation in artificial intelligence, precision medicine, and cybersecurity.

ONC's programs have delivered clear, bipartisan value:

- **Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA):** Establishing a nationwide "network of networks" that enables clinicians and health systems to securely access patient information across organizational boundaries, improving care quality while reducing duplication and inefficiency.
- **Health IT Certification Program:** Driving adoption of standardized, secure, and interoperable electronic health records and digital tools, ensuring consistency and reliability across the healthcare ecosystem.
- **United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI):** Creating a unified foundation for high-value data exchange, supporting clinical decision-making, research, and public health response.
- **Patient Access and Information Blocking Policies:** Expanding individuals' ability to access and use their own health data, fostering transparency, competition, and patient-centered care.

These initiatives are not abstract policy achievements, they translate directly into better outcomes for patients, lower administrative burden for providers, and more efficient use of federal healthcare investments. They also ensure that rural and underserved communities benefit from the same level of coordinated, high-quality care as other populations, improving access to care.

The Administration's proposed reduction to ONC's budget would slow implementation of nationwide interoperability, limit oversight and implementation of emerging technologies, and weaken the infrastructure needed to support innovation across the healthcare system. In contrast, maintaining ONC's funding at \$69,238,000 represents a modest but strategic investment with outsized returns for patients, providers, and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth

Alliance for Nursing Informatics

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

American Society of Nephrology

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

HLN Consulting, LLC

Learning Health Community

Manijeh Berenji MD Consulting Inc

MD Partners, Inc.

Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association

Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)

The Center for Telehealth and eHealth Law

The Society of General Internal Medicine