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AIMBE Statement on the Impact of Federal Policy Changes on Biomedical Research

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) is deeply concerned about recent federal policies that are disrupting scientific research, innovation, and the biomedical workforce. Restrictions on communication, disruptions to grant review processes, and uncertainty surrounding federal research funding are already affecting laboratories, research institutions, and the broader biomedical innovation ecosystem in ways that threaten patient care, public health, and U.S. technological leadership.

Medical and biological engineering research drives advancements in imaging technologies, regenerative medicine, medical devices, artificial intelligence in healthcare, and bioinformatics—transformative innovations that improve health outcomes, lower healthcare costs, and create high-tech jobs. However, the current policy environment is putting this progress at risk in several critical ways:

- **Delays in Funding and Grant Reviews:** Many biomedical engineering projects rely on federal grants from agencies like NIH, NSF, and FDA. Disruptions to grant review processes delay life-saving research in areas such as cancer diagnostics, wearable health technologies, and neural prosthetics, threatening the livelihoods of scientists nationwide.
- **Barriers to Collaboration and Communication:** Medical and biological engineering is highly interdisciplinary, requiring constant engagement with federal agencies, industry, and clinical partners. Restrictions on communication hinder scientific progress, limit researchers' ability to share expertise, and slow the translation of discoveries into real-world applications.
- **Crippling Impact on Research Institutions and the Biomedical Workforce:** Nearly 60% of U.S. university R&D funding comes from federal sources. Disruptions have immediate consequences—labs are pausing critical research, faculty are struggling to sustain teams, and hiring freezes are preventing the recruitment of new talent. Thousands of jobs, from graduate students to technical staff, depend on research funding, and instability threatens this workforce, discouraging young engineers and slowing the innovation pipeline.
- **Threats to U.S. Leadership in Biomedical Innovation:** The U.S. has historically led the world in biomedical engineering, with federally funded research producing breakthroughs like MRI, 3D-printed prosthetics, and AI-assisted diagnostics. If funding and policy disruptions continue, other nations investing heavily in research will surpass the U.S., weakening our global competitiveness. Companies that supply critical lab equipment and materials are also feeling the strain, further disrupting the biomedical research ecosystem.

AIMBE urges policymakers to protect the stability and integrity of federally funded biomedical research, ensure open communication between researchers and agencies, and reinforce the essential role of science and engineering in driving medical innovation. A strong federal commitment to medical and biological engineering is critical to maintaining the U.S. as a leader in healthcare innovation, improving patient outcomes, and strengthening our economy.

Established in 1991, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., representing the most accomplished individuals in the fields of medical and biological engineering. No other organization can bring together academia, industry, government, and scientific societies to form a highly influential community advancing medical and biological engineering. AIMBE's mission is to provide leadership and advocacy in medical and biological engineering for the benefit of society.