

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write to ask for your consideration of establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health (ARPA-H) in the state of Texas. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has the responsibility to ensure that funds provided to ARPA-H support its mission to develop breakthrough treatments and enhance health outcomes. To fully achieve this goal, it is essential that HHS establish ARPA-H in Texas where there is existing medical infrastructure, access to state-of-the-art bio-medical research institutions, and diverse workforce and patient populations.

One of structural aspects of the ARPA-H workforce is the inclusion of project managers to carry out the mission of the agency. The project managers needed by ARPA-H to succeed are readily available, and the diverse patient base ARPA-H is intended to serve is already located in Texas. President Biden and Congress have called for the creation of ARPA-H to identify transformative and broadly accessible solutions to our greatest health care issues, from cancer, Alzheimer's and AIDS to equitable health care delivery and cost containment. We agree that advancing and accelerating health research is critical. Providing transformative and accessible solutions to the greatest challenges facing health care will serve indispensable to American families and the United States as a global leader in health care.

Texas, the most diverse and fastest-growing state in the union, houses world-renowned health care and biomedical research institutions that are leading innovators in cancer, Alzheimer's, metabolic disease, and other major health-related issues. Further, Texas has the infrastructure, diversity, and technology that ARPA-H requires to thrive, including the largest medical center in the world, and the largest military medical complex in the country. Texas established the \$6 billion Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote in the legislature and was approved twice by Texas voters.

As you know, ARPA-H was modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) which propelled the United States to strategic technological advancements that have improved American and global life. ARPA-H will create transformative solutions to health care-related challenges and Texas is suited to maximize ARPA-H's full potential. The establishment of ARPA-H in our great state will improve the health and prosperity of the United States and the rest of the world. To maximize ARPA-H's full potential, it should have the characteristics of its successful predecessor:

- ARPA-H should draw on deep multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches to problem-solving, on an accelerated timeline.
- ARPA-H should be able to assess rapidly the viability of projects and solutions. Specialized program managers should have a defined and limited time periods in which to deliver solutions. These project managers should be supported by specialized staff in contracting, intellectual property, and related areas to enable rapid execution of projects.

- ARPA-H should bring diversity of thought, approaches, people, institutions, and ideas to address the complex range and depth of pressing public health and bioscience challenges. Through this approach, ARPA-H will solidify the United States' position as a leader in achieving global health and bioscience breakthroughs to benefit humankind.

To accomplish the mission of ARPA-H and ensure that the U.S. continue to be recognized and trusted as the leading health innovators across the world, we urge you to consider the establishment of ARPA-H in Texas.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress