

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 6, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

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

Dear President Biden and Secretary Becerra:

Thank you for your work in establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), proposed by President Biden and funded by Congress in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending bill (Public Law 117-103). As you work with Dr. Russell to launch ARPA-H, we urge you to consider the state of Ohio as a partner in your work to strengthen U.S. innovation in biomedical and health research, and voice our support for the city of Cleveland's interest in serving as a home for ARPA-H.

Cleveland embodies resiliency, rebirth, innovation, and growth, and the city is uniquely positioned to fill the needs of this new agency. The city has a vibrant health care sector replete with world-class, integrated health systems; top-tier institutions of higher education; and hundreds of groundbreaking biomedical companies. Coupled with a supportive and collaborative business community and highly-skilled manufacturing workforce, Northeast Ohio is a natural location to support the next generation of discovery, innovation, and production in the health sciences and drive breakthroughs in health care research and development.

In the past 15 years, the city's Health-Tech Corridor has generated billions of dollars in investment as new partners settle into this growing community of health science innovators. From private investment from companies like IBM, which will establish its first private-sector quantum computer in the country in Cleveland to accelerate discovery in healthcare and life sciences, to public investment from federal entities like NASA Glenn Research Center and the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland would be a premier location to build out the work of ARPA-H to foster bolder, more rapid research and innovation and translate that work into "use driven" solutions for Americans.

Recently, the Cleveland Innovation District was established with \$100 million of investment from the state of Ohio, \$100 million from Jobs Ohio, and more than \$400 million from a combination of local stakeholders. These funds, together with the region's many biomedical companies, provide ready partners to commercialize and deploy ARPA-H's breakthroughs so that they can quickly be used for patient care. The Cleveland Clinic Global Center for Pathogen & Human Health Research

sits at the heart of the Innovation District and is focused on broadening our understanding of viral pathogens and the human immune response toward preparing and protecting against future public health threats – a mission directly aligned with that of ARPA-H.

Cleveland also is presently home to a number of world-class institutions that foster collaboration while performing world-class research and development. In addition to its Center for Pathogen & Human Health Research, Cleveland Clinic leads an NIH Center for Accelerated Innovations (NCAI), one of three NIH centers that seek to accelerate the transfer of medical innovations from the bench to the bedside of patients in need of assistance, and includes six partner research institutions: Case Western Reserve University, the Ohio State University, the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the University of Michigan, and Northwestern University.

Just down the street, University Hospitals hosts the Harrington Discovery Institute, a unique \$650 million initiative that supports drug discovery and development locally and globally through mission aligned non-profit and for-profit vehicles to address unmet medical needs. Harrington Discovery has supported the development of over 150 breakthrough discoveries and 30 companies across the US, Canada, and the UK. And just across town, the MetroHealth System's Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) supports transformative societal research and solution building. PHRI has received more than \$21 million in federal funds and is comprised of three centers that help address social determinants of health: the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, the Center for Clinical Informatics Research and Education, and the Center for Health Care Research and Policy. PHRI brings together collaborators from across the region to foster equitable, thriving, healthy communities and develop bold interventions to address health disparities.

Cleveland is also home to world-class undergraduate and graduate programs necessary to train and foster our next generation of scientific and health care innovators, who will lead the biomedical workforce of the future, including Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and Cleveland State University. In addition, CWRU hosts the National Center for Regenerative Medicine (NCRM), which boasts an established network of academic, medical, and corporate institutions working together to accelerate the discovery and delivery of cellular therapeutics into the standard of care. The NCRM's specialized research programs span 13 therapeutic areas and are designed to support both interdisciplinary and translational research efforts.

As you develop this new, independent entity, we urge you to consider Ohio's interest in supporting ARPA-H. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that ARPA-H is fully equipped to produce the breakthroughs that will transform patient care for millions of Americans by forging its future here in Northeast Ohio. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



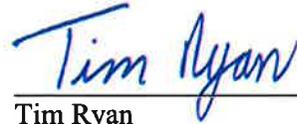
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Anthony Gonzalez  
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Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



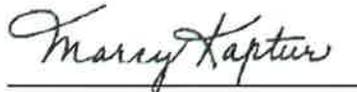
Mike Carey  
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Member of Congress

CC:

Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Acting Science Advisor to the President Dr. Francis Collins, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

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