

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Becerra,

As the Department of Health and Human Services begins to stand up the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H), we urge you to consider the unique assets of Massachusetts to support and further the goals of this new agency. Massachusetts is a leader in biomedical research, innovation, and discovery. Its world-class colleges and universities, research institutions, health systems, and biotechnology industry represent an unparalleled base of knowledge, resources, and proven ability to discover and innovate. As ARPA-H seeks to accelerate medical breakthroughs and invest in high-risk, high-reward projects aimed at preventing and curing infectious and rare diseases, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and other serious conditions, the federal government and the American people would be the beneficiaries of the rich innovation ecosystem in Massachusetts.

The Commonwealth is home to several of the top research universities in the world, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, the University of Massachusetts system, Boston University, Northeast University, Tufts University, and Brandeis University, among many others. This rich university community supports leading research institutions, such as the Broad Institute, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Mass General Research Institute, which are home to numerous Nobel laureates and leading researchers in medicine, genetics, biology, and chemistry. The diverse, skilled, highly educated workforce that originates from our more than 100 colleges and universities is Massachusetts's competitive advantage.

Massachusetts also has a culture of collaboration in support of biomedical breakthroughs and innovation. The Massachusetts Life Science Center (MLSC) is a one-of-a-kind quasi-public agency that leverages public and private funding to make local investments in research and development, and manufacturing and commercialization in life sciences. Since creation in 2007, MLSC has invested more than \$747 million into the Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem. This commitment to life science has helped produce new leaders in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. It is not a coincidence that all three approved COVID-19 vaccines have deep connections to Massachusetts. The success of this type of public-private collaboration embodies the promise of ARPA-H.

Massachusetts has an unrivaled ability to advance the mission of ARPA-H. The new agency would be able to build upon the rich biomedical research and development ecosystem in the

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
May 16, 2022
Page 2


Massachusetts, while bringing new resources and innovators to this system to further the science of human health.

Massachusetts has an unmatched reputation as an idea factory, a force for positive disruption that yields revolutionary advancement and is the envy of the world. As the Department of Health and Human Services and the Biden administration considers a location for ARPA-H, we strongly encourage you to consider the value and benefits offered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

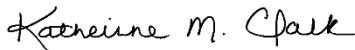


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/ William Keating
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



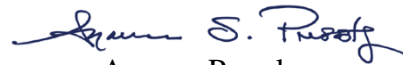
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress