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September 16, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Becerra:

You have received letters from Georgia's congressional delegation, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Global Health Innovation, and many others advocating for the ARPA-H headquarters to be established in Atlanta, Georgia. I write to add the voice of a unique and impactful non-profit organization with the mission of advancing cancer care through partnerships and innovation to these requests that you make Atlanta this innovative agency's home.

Georgia CORE, the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education, was created nearly 20 years ago to bring clinical trials and cancer innovations to Georgia so patients and their families would never have to leave the state to have access to the best cancer care. We connect providers, researchers, organizations, and advocates and attract federal and state grants and clinical trials, provide educational resources to cancer survivors, their families, and healthcare professionals, and fund organizations that provide free cancer screenings. No other state has created and fostered an organization like Georgia CORE that brings competing hospitals and health care systems together to find solutions that are best for all Georgians, and in doing so, we have also helped advance cancer care across this nation and around the world. We have been able to do this because of the atmosphere of cooperation, equity, and care that permeates Atlanta and the entire state.

By now you know of the exceptional higher education institutions that call the Atlanta region home including Georgia Tech, Emory, Morehouse, the University of Georgia, and so many others. Although they may be rivals on the playing field, they also live out this "Atlanta Way" which places the good of all above the profit of one. Here, academic institutions, businesses, and nonprofit organizations come together in times of trial and triumph to cooperate and innovate.

For this reason, above all others, Atlanta should be the home of ARPA-H. Georgia has the healthcare and innovation resources, technologies, knowledge, drive, and spirit to do great things. I see it every day in our collective work to defeat cancer and help Georgians live long and healthy lives. ARPA-H would thrive in this place, and I urge you to establish its headquarters and grow its workforce in Atlanta.

Sincerely,



Lynn M. Durham
President and CEO

