



September 12, 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:

Thank you for your leadership during a unique time in our nation's history and for your forward-thinking approach to addressing our healthcare challenges. We greatly anticipate the groundbreaking impact that the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) will have on the United States and around the world. The Administration is to be applauded for forward and innovative thinking as we seek to catalyze health breakthroughs for all.

We believe locating the ARPA-H facility in Georgia will position the new federal agency to succeed in its mission and continue to build upon its collaborative, novel work in advancing scientific breakthroughs and promoting innovation. Additionally, we believe we have the experienced talent needed to fill the critical Program Manager roles capable of advancing ARPA-H's goals. The metro Atlanta region occupies a unique space at the intersection of healthcare, technology, innovation, partnerships, talent, diversity and history where ARPA-H will flourish.

Since 1946, Georgia has been home to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The work of the CDC, domestically and globally, while anchored out of Georgia, has been and will continue to be transformative. Historically, Georgia has excelled at public-private partnership within our healthcare ecosystem and elsewhere. A prime example is Emory University Hospital's breakthrough treatment of four U.S. patients infected with Ebola. These patients were treated in the Serious Communicable Diseases Unit, developed in partnership with the CDC in 2002, 12 years prior to Ebola patients arriving.

Georgia's robust medical and healthcare environment is world-class with clinical facilities such as the historic Grady Health System, Winship Cancer Institute, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and The Shepherd Center. These institutions, among dozens more, enjoy access to a clinical workforce that is continuously bolstered by the graduates of our vigorous and top-rated higher education system.

Today, our region's momentum in healthcare is based around a wealth of infrastructure, including the Center for Global Health Innovation (CGHI), housing Georgia Bio, the state's largest and most influential life sciences advocacy organization. The CGHI complements other global health assets in the metro area, including the Task Force for Global Health, MedShare, MAP International and The Carter Center. Alongside our life science giants including Alcon, Boston Scientific, Moderna, Dendreon, UCB and others, ARPA-H will be well-positioned for strong, pioneering impact within the ecosystem and around the nation.

The success of our ecosystem is no secret: Georgia is training the world's best and most diverse talent across science, engineering and technology, as evidenced by our commitment and support of our academic research institutions. With public institutions like the Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, Augusta University and Kennesaw State University, alongside private institutions like Emory University and Mercer University, there is a formidable talent pipeline based entirely locally. Additionally, Georgia State University confers more bachelor's degrees to Black students than any public institution in the nation. Rich in diversity, Georgia is home to ten Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) including Morehouse School of Medicine; Morehouse College, the no. 4 HBCU in the nation; and Spelman College, the No. 1 HBCU in the nation. Out of these ten schools, four of them are part of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, the world's oldest and largest consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Georgia has demonstrated success in engaging private business, academic institutions and other stakeholders, as seen in the formation and continued work of the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA). Supported by state dollars, GRA has unified Georgia's research institutions to foster cross-university research, resulting in university leadership collaborating with leaders in government and industry. Additionally, the drug Molnupiravir, which treats COVID-19, was invented at Emory University and advanced through the Emory-formed Drug Innovation Ventures at Emory (DRIVE) LLC.

Georgia is at the crossroads of healthcare and technology. The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), whose annual convention is the largest health information and technology conference in the world, was founded in 1961 in Atlanta at the Georgia Institute of Technology. With over 460 organizations with ties to digital health, the region complements other technology innovations occurring across industries, from FinTech to supply chain and logistics.

Georgia's infrastructure also plays a part - including financial services, logistics and transportation, smart cities and more. Our state is remarkably accessible with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport frequently named the world's busiest airport. Our state is home to Delta Air Lines, with flights out of Atlanta reaching 300+ destinations around the world. Atlanta is home to UPS, which has UPS Healthcare Cold Chain with 11+ million square feet of healthcare distribution space globally. In addition to these two business titans, Georgia is home to headquarters of 17 Fortune 500 companies and over 40 corporate innovation centers which lead the spirit of innovation and ingenuity.

For the strengths listed above and more, metro Atlanta stands ready to continue a rich legacy of contributions to global health innovation and transformation by welcoming ARPA-H to Georgia. We welcome you to learn what our community and ecosystem have to offer toward the mission of ARPA-H. Thank you for your support on this issue and your continued service to our nation.

Sincerely,

Metro Atlanta Chamber  
ARPA-H Georgia Coalition  
Aaron's  
Accenture  
Acuity Brands  
Alston & Bird  
Asbury Automotive Group  
Atlanta Braves

Atlanta Falcons  
Atlanta Hawks  
Atlanta Tech Village  
Atlanta United  
Baker Donelson  
BIP Capital  
BlueLinx  
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner  
Cadence Bank  
Cancer Treatment Centers of America  
The Carter Center  
Center for Global Health Innovation  
Central Atlanta Progress  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Clarke Atlanta University  
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta  
Covanos  
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SouthState Bank  
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Synovus  
Task Force for Global Health  
TK Elevator Corporation  
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Transwestern  
University of Georgia  
UCB  
UPS  
Veritiv Corporation  
Waffle House  
WestRock  
Woodruff Arts Center

cc: Ron Klain, Chief of Staff, White House  
Dr. Renee Wegrzyn, Intended Appointee, Director, Advanced Research Project Agency for Health  
Dr. Adam Russell, Acting Deputy Director, Advanced Research Project Agency for Health  
Dr. Alondra Nelson, Acting Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Nominated Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Dr. Lawrence Tabak, Acting Director, National Institutes of Health