

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Becerra:

As Members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, we appreciate the efforts the Biden administration is making to catalyze advancement and breakthroughs in our biomedical ecosystem by establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). The creation of this agency, and the critical investments that must follow, will keep the United States on the cutting edge of biomedical advancements and will improve the lives of patients across the United States. As a leader in the biotechnology and life science industry, and home to world-class educational and research institutions, our state is uniquely positioned to serve as the ideal location for the agency's future headquarters.

Specifically, North Carolina is home to various research and development hubs for key sectors including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, information technology and data science, digital health, cleantech, textiles, food manufacturing, and advanced manufacturing. There is a demonstrated record of these industries partnering with our institutions of higher education across the state to bolster our nation's health workforce, leading breakthrough biomedical, biotechnology, and life sciences research on a global scale. This includes eleven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including the largest HBCU in the country, North Carolina A&T, which is nationally recognized for its excellence in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) education. Additionally, the North Carolina Community College System "BioNetwork" provides high-quality workforce development opportunities for the biotechnology and life science industries. Moreover, North Carolina's health care systems and clinical research institutions are known around the globe for providing the most highly innovative research and advanced care to overcome the health challenges facing our communities, including cancer, Alzheimer's, and diabetes.

Finally, North Carolina has one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S., demonstrating the clear economic appeal and reliable pipeline of diverse and qualified talent for businesses. The state also had a 410 percent increase in venture capital in the last five years, from \$800 million in 2016 to \$4.1 billion in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Our thriving economy, strategic location in the southeastern United

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<sup>1</sup> *Massive economic impact: Record 178,300 businesses launch in '21 across NC*, TechWire, <https://wraltechwire.com/2022/01/14/massive-economic-impact-record-178000-businesses-launch-in-21-across-nc/> and *Funding to Black & Latinx Founders*, [www.about.crunchbase.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020\\_crunchbase\\_diversity\\_report.pdf](http://www.about.crunchbase.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020_crunchbase_diversity_report.pdf).

States, and low cost of living are attracting and retaining the world's best and brightest. With an unmatched business environment, North Carolina offers a full complement of clinical, STEM, biotech, and business training programs to prepare for a workforce skilled in cutting edge research, academia, health care and digital health for both public and private sectors.

As Members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, we appreciate your dedication to creating a successful and groundbreaking new agency and we are excited about the unique opportunity North Carolina's resources and environment could provide ARPA-H if selected as the location of its headquarters. We appreciate your consideration, and we look forward to working with you as the agency begins to undertake its mission.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



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Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



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Kathy E. Manning  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



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Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



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Patrick T. McHenry  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress