

November 21, 2022

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

Dr. Renee Wegrzyn Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) National Institutes of Health (NIH) 9000 Rockville Pike Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dr. Arati Prabhakar Office of Science and Technology Policy Executive Office of the President Eisenhower Executive Office Building 1650 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Secretary Becerra, Dr. Wegrzyn, and Dr. Prabhakar:

I write to you today on behalf of the New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business association, in support of locating the headquarters of the newly formed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) in New England.

The New England Council is a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England. Our mission is to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the region by identifying and supporting federal public policies and articulating the voice of its membership regionally and nationally on important issues facing New England. Among our more-than-600 members are businesses and organizations of all types and sizes, representing a wide array of industries in the six New England states.

It is with that background that urge you to consider the unparalleled resources the region has to offer. New England is known as one of the world's premier life sciences hubs, and is home to many of the world's top medical, education, and research facilities. In fact, New England centers of higher education and research institutes received over \$4.5 billion in NIH funding in 2021. Additionally, the region supports over 56,000 jobs directly tied to NIH funding, and supports just over \$10 billion in economic activity (https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/nih-in-your-state/).

In addition, the New England region boasts a dynamic workforce and innovation ecosystem. New England is home to a highly skilled talent pool to supply the quality and quantity of employees that ARPA-H will need. The region's strong network of researchers, practitioners, and other scientific and medical leaders will serve as an excellent talent pipeline.

We believe that New England is the ideal location for the new APRA-H headquarters, and encourage you to consider the wealth of resources in this region as you make your decision. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or our Director of Federal Affairs Sean Malone at <a href="mailto:smalone@newenglandcouncil.com">smalone@newenglandcouncil.com</a>.

Sincerely,

James T. Brett President & CEO

CC: New England Congressional Delegation