Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We, as members of the Texas Congressional Delegation, write to strongly recommend the Lone Star State for the establishment of an Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) facility. To achieve the important goal of researching and developing high-risk, high-reward projects that will transform health treatments and outcomes, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and ARPA-H will need to carefully select locations that provide the best environment to succeed. Texas offers a diverse population, vast health care and research ecosystem, sustained economic growth, and expanding cities and infrastructure throughout the state. With all of these components, Texas has everything ARPA-H will need to achieve its goals.

As one of the few majority-minority states in our union, Texas' incredibly diverse population is growing each year to reflect the composition of our nation's cultural melting pot. This diversity is vital for the successful testing and implementation of nearly all medical breakthroughs that ARPA-H will produce in the coming years. Without it, ARPA-H won't be able to ensure that all Americans are able to benefit from breakthroughs in curing diabetes, heart disease, or even cancer. Texas can readily provide heterogeneous groups for clinical trials throughout the entire state, thereby ensuring equitable representation with minimal travel or resource burden.

Texas' distinguished medical institutions and cutting-edge research facilities also provide an immediate and unique benefit to ARPA-H. Our inter-disciplinary health care institutions are currently carrying out tens of billions of dollars of research into breakthroughs such as tuberculosis vaccines, metabolic disease treatments, as well as Alzheimer's research. Texans across the state and political spectrum stand firmly behind these research opportunities, as evidenced by their voting twice to invest $6 billion in the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas. Our state houses the largest medical complex in the world, several of the best medical schools in the country, and more than 2,000 biotechnology-related research & development firms, ranking #2 nationally for the number of clinical trials underway—more than 32,600 in 2022 alone. This strong

foundation of research and health care institutions has already laid the groundwork for a state that is ready and able to assist ARPA-H in every aspect of its work.

The world-class medical and research institutions across Texas are just one aspect of our state's remarkably strong economy. Boasting rapid growth, a favorable business climate, and a skilled workforce pipeline, Texas is continuously leading as one of the top economic powerhouses in our country. Texas has been named the Best State for Business by *Chief Executive* for the past 18 years straight, and with the 9th largest economy in the world and more than fifty Fortune 500 companies headquartered in our state, it is clear that when a company wants to do something big, they come to Texas. Additionally, the Lone Star State has maintained its position as the nationwide leader in job growth for 14 months straight, leading our country's job development coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. With over 130 higher education institutions across the state, Texas is training our nation's next generation of professionals across every industry and offers one of the largest pools of potential life sciences and biotech professionals in the country.
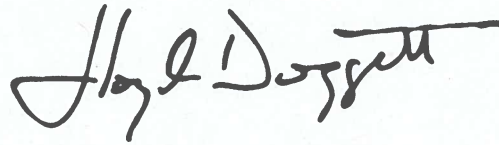
Texas' growth and development in these areas could only be made possible by the robust infrastructure across our state and the continuous investments being made to ensure we are leading the country in growth across the board. With five of the most diverse and populated cities in the country, Texas has become incredibly skilled at meeting the needs of our growing cities. We are constantly expanding our roads, bridges, and infrastructure to meet the needs of the people. This ability to rapidly expand can help ARPA-H's capabilities as they grow as well, whether it be in the form of establishing new buildings and infrastructure, expanding current facilities, or whatever needs may arise. Texas has also firmly established itself as a transportation nexus for our country, with 24 passenger airports throughout the state and half of those providing international service across the world. From El Paso to Corpus Christi and everywhere in between, Texas' expansive airport network can fulfill all of ARPA-H's needs for mobility and transporting staff wherever they are needed.

Texas would be honored to partner with ARPA-H to bring about the next wave of health care breakthroughs. The Lone Star State is uniquely positioned to leverage its diverse population, world-class medical institutions, tremendous economic productivity, skilled workforce, and top-of-the-line infrastructure to help change the lives of people around the world. Our centralized location in the United States also provides the opportunity to establish a central hub for ARPA-H that can work with stakeholders across the country, capable of functioning as the heart of their research endeavors. We look forward to working with you on promoting the crucial work that ARPA-H will be conducting, and we encourage you to visit the various cities across Texas to see for yourselves the remarkable opportunity that our state offers.
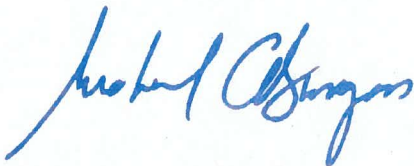
Sincerely,

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

John Cornyn
Unites States Senator

Ted Cruz
United States Senator
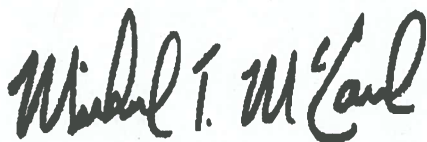
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

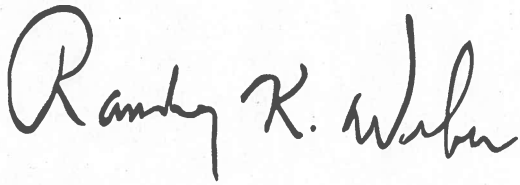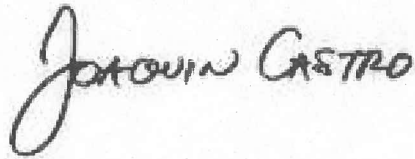John Carter
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Henry Cuellar
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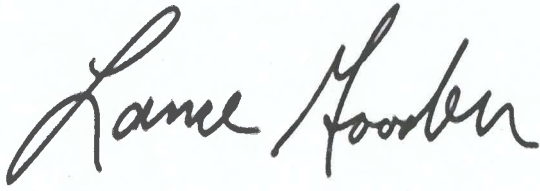
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress
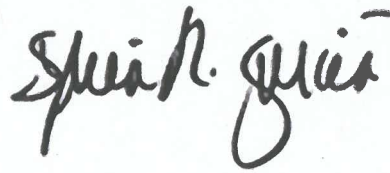
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Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
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Lance Gooden
Member of Congress
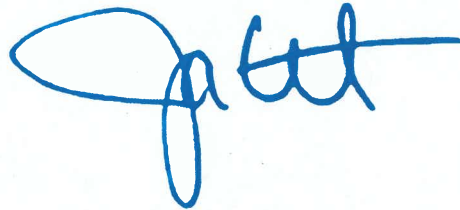
Sylvia Garcia
Member of Congress
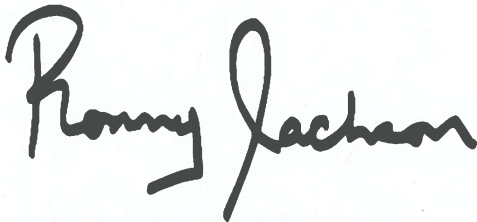
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress
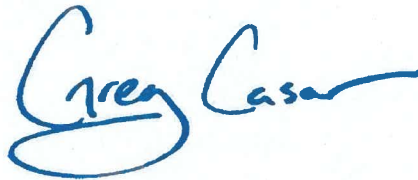
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August Pfluger
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Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress
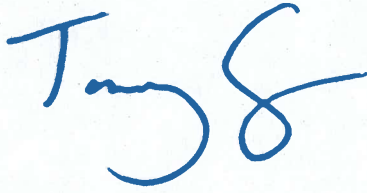
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Beth Van Duyne
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Jake Ellzey
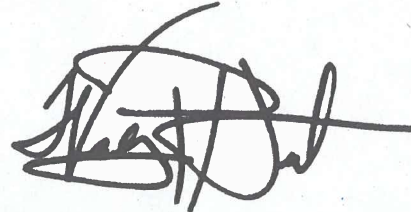Member of Congress

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