

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2023

Renee Wegrzyn, Ph.D.
Director
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health
C/O Assistant Secretary for Legislation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W. Washington, DC 20201

RE: Texas Medical Center's ARPA-H Intermediary Application

Dear Ms. Wegrzyn:

It is my understanding that the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) is currently soliciting applications for Partnership Intermediaries (PI). I recently met with the leadership at the Texas Medical Center in Houston (TMC) and have been advised the TMC will be applying to become a PI. I am writing in strong support of their application and request that you give that application every appropriate consideration.

The Texas Medical Center is not only one of the finest medical centers in the United States, it is one of the finest in the world. TMC is home to Texas Children's Hospital, the world's largest children's hospital, and MD Anderson Cancer Center, the world's largest cancer hospital. All told, TMC's gross domestic products exceeds \$25 billion per year.

The staff at TMC consists of more than 120,000 dedicated employees who engage in more than 10 million patient encounters, perform more than 180,000 surgeries, and provide care in response to 750,000 emergency room visits each year. The facilities at TMC are extraordinary – consisting of more than 9,200 patient beds and 50 million developed square feet with another \$3 billion in construction projects currently underway.

I understand that ARPA-H will choose the Intermediaries based on the following six technical factors:

1. Approach & Key Personnel
2. Domain Expertise
3. Commercial Acumen
4. Analytical Capacity
5. Advisor Network
6. Prototyping & Design Expertise

I am fully confident that TMC's application will demonstrate that TMC satisfies each key factor. Beyond their application, however, I would like to make you aware of several factors that I believe makes TMC uniquely positioned to form a dynamic and innovative public-private partnership with ARPA-H.

First, Texas Medical Center calls the City of Houston home. Houston is not only the United States' fourth largest city, it is also one of our nation's most racially diverse cities. The exciting promise of ARPA-H is the possibility of solving some of the most complex medical and health challenges. By partnering with TMC, ARPA-H would be ensuring that it is working with a partner deeply committed to finding solutions and positive health outcomes that can benefit all Americans, including racial and ethnic minorities.

Second, Houston is home to two significant airports - George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). IAH is one of the nation's busiest airports and last year HOU became the first airport in North America to earn a 5-star international rating. As such, both IAH and HOU offer connectivity and convenient travel access to Houston by ARPA-H staff, other program partners, and international health and medical professionals who are working to improve global health.

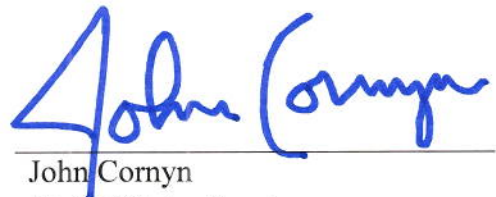
Third, there are many other major metropolitan areas in Texas, such as Austin, Dallas-Ft. Worth, San Antonio and more, that are in close proximity to TMC. Each of these cities also contain world-class medical centers that would make excellent research partners for TMC within the ARPA-H program. Texas also boasts seven of the top 100 medical research schools in the U.S.

Thank you for your consideration of Texas Medical Center's Partnership Intermediary application. Should you have any questions about this letter of TMC's application, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator