

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

Thank you for your ongoing work to support the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). As work on an end of year package advances, we write to respectfully request the omission of language in any bill or committee report that restricts the location of the agency.

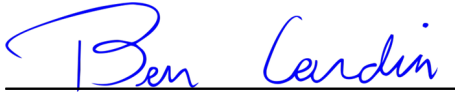
We commend your efforts to ensure ARPA-H can achieve its goal of advancing biomedical and health research in innovative ways. However, some ARPA-H proposals have suggested authorizing the agency while placing a statutory restriction on its location, such as a prohibition on ARPA-H being located within the National Capital Region (which includes Washington, D.C., Alexandria, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Montgomery, and Prince George's). This restriction would be both arbitrary and unnecessary, and it would hinder the agency from using a truly objective process to determine the best location.


ARPA-H was proposed as a biomedical version of the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). A legislative restriction on DARPA's location was not necessary for the agency to accomplish its groundbreaking work. As you know, DARPA is, in fact, located in close proximity to the Pentagon, which allows for close collaboration but independence from the Department of Defense.

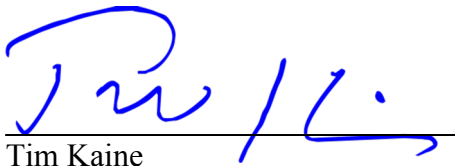
In order to live up to its promise to advance breakthrough scientific research, ARPA-H, like its model DARPA, must be able to find a location with the best physical and human infrastructure to support its mission. Should legislation with regional location restrictions advance, not only would ARPA-H be harmed, but other federal agencies could be subjected to similar provisions in the future and risk losing access to crucial resources.


We are excited about the opportunities ARPA-H will have to advance health research and look forward to working with you to ensure the agency has the resources essential to success.

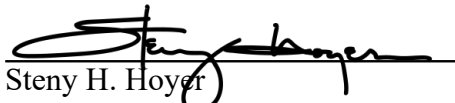
Sincerely,


  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

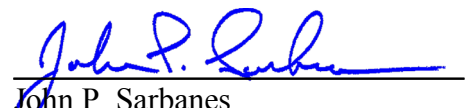
  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator


  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator


  
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress


  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress


  
C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress


  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress


  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress


  
Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress


  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

  
Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress

  
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress

  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Richard Shelby, Patty Murray, Richard Burr, Roy Blunt, Rosa DeLauro, Kay Granger, Tom Cole, Frank Pallone, Jr., and Cathy McMorris Rodgers