



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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My name is Gerard Isenberg, MD, and I am President of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio (AMCNO) and a practicing gastroenterology physician at a major health system in Cleveland.

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), founded in 1824, is the region's professional medical association and the oldest professional association in Ohio. We are a non-profit 501(c)6 representing physicians and medical students from all of the contiguous counties in Northern Ohio. On behalf of our 6,000 members and their patients who have seen and experienced the high standard of healthcare and innovation in our city, **I urge you to house the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) in Cleveland, Ohio.**

Over nearly 200 years, AMCNO has witnessed many changes in Cleveland, but one aspect has remained constant: **Cleveland is a city of integral innovation in healthcare.** Cleveland researchers have consistently proven their comfort in taking risks to lead to a larger reward for their patients through their rich history of biomedical innovation. These projects have led to a myriad of novel life-saving treatments, products, and procedures including coronary artery bypass surgery, MRI guided laser treatments on previously inoperable brain tumors, and creative health care models that save the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid millions of dollars.¹ Because of this, Cleveland should house the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

With fewer barriers to high-risk research, ARPA-H researchers will build on Cleveland's abundant history of biomedical excellence to pursue the most cutting-edge innovations in health care. Cleveland is a hotspot of health research and education with three world-renowned health systems and many highly ranked medical schools, making it the perfect place to create and grow ARPA-H into the forefront of health innovation.

We believe that Cleveland, Ohio is the best place to achieve President Biden's mission for ARPA-H, and we urge you to consider the immense potential for ARPA-H's success in Cleveland over the next several decades.

Sincerely,

Gerard Isenberg, MD

¹ *Facts & Figures*. (2022). Cleveland Clinic. <https://tinyurl.com/ClevClinicInnovation>; *Research History*. (2022). University Hospitals. <https://www.uhhospitals.org/research-and-education/research-history>; *Population Health Innovation Institute*. (2022). Metro Health. <https://www.metrohealth.org/population-health-innovation-institute>.