

Phenome HEALTH

November 11, 2021

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Health
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo:

We are writing to express our strong support for the legislation you have introduced, H.R. 5585, to create the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). It will catalyze innovation, transform big ideas, advance scientific discovery, and optimize human health.

We have spent our careers on research and clinical investigations into how to provide and deliver better healthcare to humans. Transformational advances in human understanding over the past half century, including pioneering new technologies for analyzing human biomolecules such as the explosive advances of DNA sequencing, the human genome project, a systems biology approach applied to medicine (precision medicine), and the data-driven analyses of precision population health medicine where definitive physiological, molecular, imaging, and clinical information provide fundamental new insights into human health, both for body and brain. These place us in a unique position to bring all of these technologies, strategies and computational platforms together in an integrative manner to transform health. We can now advocate a science of individual human wellness and disease prevention.

ARPA-H appears uniquely positioned to catalyze a fundamental change in medicine that is predictive, preventive, personalized, and participatory. We are on the cusp of a shift in the evolution of health care and medicine unlike anything we have seen previously. We believe ARPA-H will revolutionize the manner which government helps to usher in the era of individualized care based on a fuller understanding of the human genome and phenome and the application of these insights to individual humans.

We are particularly pleased to understand that ARPA-H will function as a distinct organization with independent management following the innovative DARPA approach at the DOE (a director and program managers who will choose the projects). We endorse the concepts that the new program managers will be serving independently and without typical peer review timelines, that up front risk taking will be considered important for projects considered by ARPA-H, and that the importance of the consolidation of relevant knowledge and diversity, equity and inclusion are high priorities. We can reach more milestones in health care when we move data from silos and employ the science of wellness integratively and longitudinally across individual lives. As designed, ARPA-H can transform how we approach individualized wellness, disease prevention and treatment over the entire spectrum of acute and chronic diseases.

We look forward to further action on H.R. 5585 that will authorize ARPA-H. We will be fully supportive of funding and have signaled our support to other Members of Congress. It is our sincere hope to be a part of ARPA-H as we make our way through another paradigm shift in science and health. We stand ready to assist you and your staff in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Lee Hood, MD, PhD
Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer
ISB, Seattle
CEO, Phenome Health



Michelle A. Williams, ScD
Dean of the Faculty
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



George Church, PhD
Robert Winthrop Professor of Genetics
Harvard Medical School



Ralph Snyderman, MD
Chancellor Emeritus, Duke University
Director, Duke Center for Personalized Health Care



Ed Lazowska
Professor and Bill & Melinda Gates Chair Emeritus
Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
University of Washington

cc: Representative Jim Clyburn, Majority Whip
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member
Representative Kim Schrier, MD