

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Renee Wegrzyn, Ph.D.
Director
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
9000 Rockville Pike,
Bethesda, MD 20892

Director Wegrzyn:

As members of the California delegation deeply committed to the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health's mission, we write in support of California's ARPA-H Investor Catalyst Hub Proposal. California is a national leader in the life-sciences, home to world-class universities and research institutions, thousands of innovative biotech companies, and a robust investor and talent population. These qualifications make California uniquely suited to support the mission of ARPA-H's Investor Catalyst Hub.

California's contribution to the life-sciences is already well-recognized by the federal government. Institutions in the state received \$5.47 billion in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY2022. The University of California system, including University of California, San Diego, University of California, San Francisco, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of California, Berkeley received significant funding. Similarly, Stanford University and the University of Southern California leverage substantial NIH funding to drive innovative research in biotechnology, while Scripps Research Institute, Kaiser Permanente and the Salk Institute are responsible for a long legacy of medical discovery.

The State's academic infrastructure contributes to and is complemented by the concentration of biotechnology companies, business accelerators, and incubators. Biocom California's Life Science Economic Impact Report¹ details that 16,000 establishments in the State of California generated \$376 billion in total economic output for the state and directly employed 435,000 workers in the life sciences in 2022. These establishments range from our world-class universities, laboratories, research and development entities, drug and equipment wholesalers, and device and pharmaceutical manufacturers. The industry continues to grow in California where it added more than 23,000 jobs in 2021.

This growth is supported by robust public and private investment. Combined, the NIH, the National Science Foundation, and venture capital delivered more than \$22 billion in funding in 2021. California's unique innovation ecosystem is poised to provide clear support for the ARPA-H Investor Catalyst Hub's mission to bring the latest medical innovations from the laboratory to the marketplace. In fact, over the past six years, 40% of national venture investment took place in California.² This investment is delivering results. California entities received 30% of all bioscience patent awards between 2016 and 2019.³

Partnerships across the industry in California are collaborative and supportive, translating ideas from theory to practice. For example, the State of California and five neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, including Rady Children's Hospital through Project Baby Bear, demonstrated the clinical value of utilizing whole genome sequencing to improve outcomes and reduce hospitalization times for critically ill children. At its

¹ [2022 Life Science Economic Impact Report - Catalyst for Innovation \(biocom.org\)](#)

² [BIO2020-report.pdf](#)

³ [BIO2020-report.pdf](#)

conclusion, Project Baby Bear resulted in rapid diagnoses and changes to care plans while delivering \$2.5 million in savings to the healthcare system. This type of collaboration is emblematic of how siting the Investor Catalyst Hub in California will best meet the goals of ARPA-H.

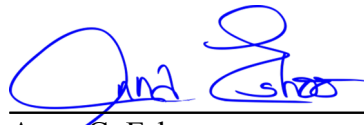
Finally, but importantly, California’s diversity will be instrumental in ensuring that the Investor Catalyst Hub is inclusive and representative of the wide variety of experiences and backgrounds that make up our innovation economy. The hub will be hosted in California and include a network of spokes throughout the state and the nation that bring distinct advantages in investment, commercialization, and healthcare to enable effective collaboration and fulfill ARPA-H’s mission. These spokes are critical aspects of the State’s proposal, reflecting its commitment to providing research and infrastructure that better serve under-represented communities in both urban and rural areas.

If selected, California’s innovation ecosystem will hit the ground running and deliver results for ARPA-H and patients across the country. No state is better equipped to immediately get to work helping the nation’s best and brightest innovators bring their ideas to market.

Sincerely,



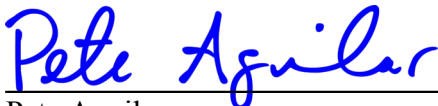
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



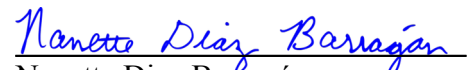
Anna G. Eshoo
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Kevin Mullin
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Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



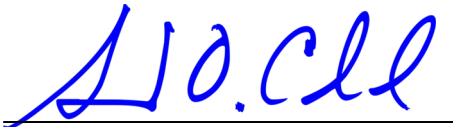
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



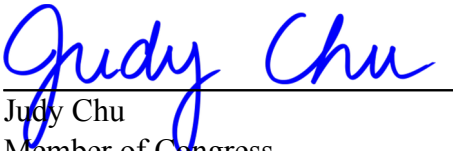
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



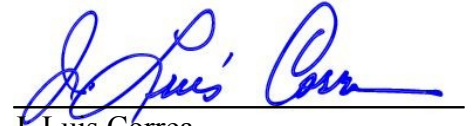
Salud Carbajal
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Tony Cardenas
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Judy Chu
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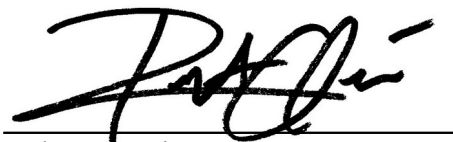
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



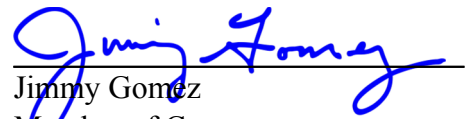
Mark DeSaulnier
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John Garamendi
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Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



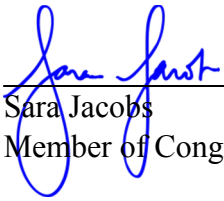
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



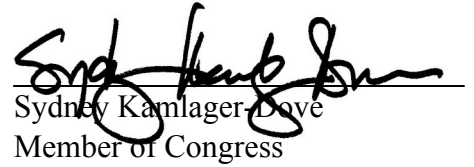
Josh Harder
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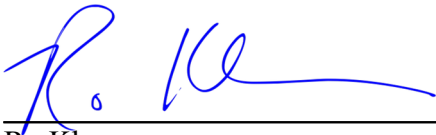
Jared Huffman
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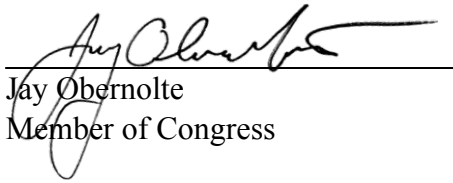
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



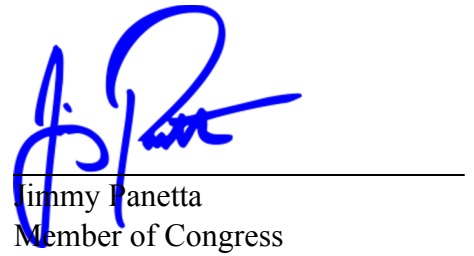
Doris Matsui
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Jay Obernolte
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Jimmy Panetta
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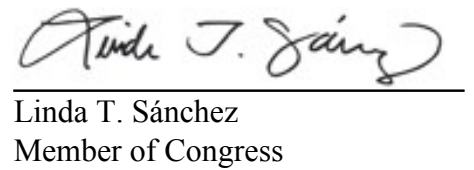
Nancy Pelosi
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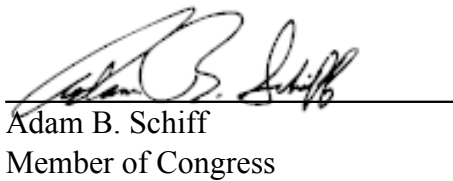
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



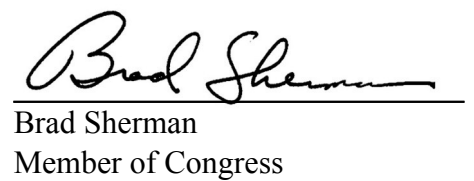
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



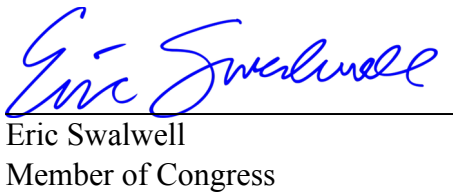
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



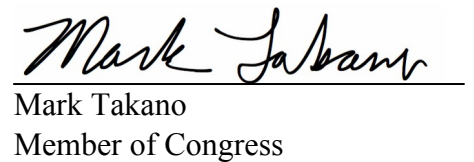
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



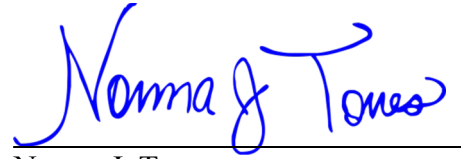
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



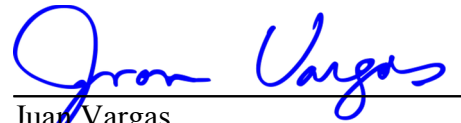
Mike Thompson
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Norma J. Torres
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David G. Valadao
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Juan Vargas
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Maxine Waters
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