

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 16, 2023

Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.  
Acting Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Acting Director Tabak,

We write regarding our support for the proposal to establish the *All of Us* Heartland Consortium, submitted in response to ROA No. OTA-22-006. Utilizing a combined effort from regional medical schools, including the University of Kansas Medical Center, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, and the University of Missouri School of Medicine, the *All of Us* Heartland Consortium research team proposes a collaboration to boost rural participation in *All of Us*. This initiative will focus on engaging central Midwesterners, especially rural Americans, and increasing enrollment into the national *All of Us* Research Program.

The *All of Us* program promises to advance precision medicine and fundamentally transform disease prevention and treatment by accounting for social, environmental, and biological influences on individual health. This proposal aims to establish an *All of Us* Healthcare Provider Organization (HPO) largely focused on engaging rural Midwestern residents into this monumental national precision medicine initiative that will propel medical innovations for decades to come.

Rural populations must be represented among the one million volunteers recruited for this program. One in five Americans lives in a rural community, and location is a critical social determinant of health. Rural residents face unique health challenges, including higher rates of chronic disease and a lack of access to specialist care. Despite these challenges, rural residents are often underrepresented in biomedical research, and residents of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri currently account for less than one percent of total enrollment in the *All of Us* Research Program. This collaboration between researchers, providers, patients, and advocates will enroll and retain thousands of participants from rural communities in the central United States. Further, they will engage rural residents as co-researchers who will guide program implementation.

The *All of Us* Heartland Consortium is uniquely equipped for this effort. The consortium will be organized by state universities and academic medical centers with long-term commitments to the development and health of our region. As supporters of higher education institutions in our states, we fully support these efforts to engage our rural residents in the program. We ask that you give this application your full and fair consideration. Should you have any further questions,

please contact Kate Rohr in Representative Davids' office at (202) 225-2865 or at [Kate.Rohr@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kate.Rohr@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

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Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

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Tracy Mann  
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Jake LaTurner, written in a cursive style.

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Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress