

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 20, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

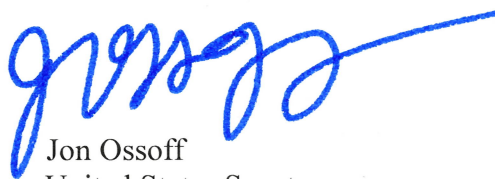
Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

I appreciate your work on the ARPA-H Act, which would establish the Advanced Research Projects Authority for Health (ARPA-H). ARPA-H will support cutting-edge, high-reward biomedical research critical to finding cures and therapeutics. As you and the Committee finalize legislation for consideration in the Senate, I ask that you include my proposed language to encourage strategic collaboration and partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Graduate Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Minority Serving Institutions, and institutions of higher education with a high proportion of Pell Grant recipients.

The Biden Administration proposed the creation of ARPA-H to "drive transformational health research innovation and speed medical breakthroughs by tackling ambitious challenges requiring large-scale, sustained, and cross-sector coordination." The initial focus of ARPA-H is to include building platforms and capabilities to try to deliver cures for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and other diseases. For ARPA-H led research to be maximally effective, and for this research enterprise to create opportunity to excel and contribute across American society, this research investment must include institutions that serve, train, and employ socioeconomically and racially diverse researchers and experts. As such, it is vital that the legislative text require the ARPA-H Director to engage in strategic collaborations and partnerships with HBCUs, MSIs, and institutions of higher education with a high proportion of Pell Grant recipients.

I look forward to working with you both on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

OSSOFF.SENATE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

CHAIR, PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To improve the bill.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 2d Sess.

S.3819

To establish an Advanced Research Projects Authority for
Health within the National Institutes of Health.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 On page 5, line 25, insert “(including historically
2 Black colleges and universities (defined for purposes of
3 this paragraph as ‘part B institutions’, as defined in sec-
4 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965), histori-
5 cally Black graduate institutions, Tribal Colleges and Uni-
6 versities (as defined in section 316(b) of such Act), His-
7 panic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502(a) of
8 such Act), other minority-serving institutions, and institu-
9 tions of higher education having an enrollment of needy
10 students (as defined in section 312(d) of such Act))” after
11 “higher education”.

1 On page 8, line 14, insert “(including historically
2 Black colleges and universities (defined for purposes of
3 this paragraph as ‘part B institutions’, as defined in sec-
4 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965), histori-
5 cally Black graduate institutions, Tribal Colleges and Uni-
6 versities (as defined in section 316(b) of such Act), His-
7 panic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502(a) of
8 such Act), other minority-serving institutions, and institu-
9 tions of higher education having an enrollment of needy
10 students (as defined in section 312(d) of such Act))” after
11 “higher education”.