

March 8, 2022

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you today, on behalf of the American Association for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research (AADOOCR), to request your support for the *Advanced Research Project Agency–Health Act* (H.R. 5585) or the “ARPA–H Act”, which would establish a new medical research initiative.

ARPA-H is a proposed new agency that aims to fill gaps in the biomedical research ecosystem. Loosely modeled on the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which is known for accelerating the development of breakthrough technologies for the military, ARPA-H will seek to leverage discovery-based research at NIH, the Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies through interagency cooperation.

There are a variety of oral conditions and diseases, such as cleft palate, oral and oropharyngeal cancer, and periodontal disease, where advanced data science could be used to identify common risk factors and reduce the inequities and disparities in access to oral health care. Bold and innovative approaches are needed to disrupt these diseases, using deeper knowledge of biologic pathways, environmental and societal influences, and social determinants of health.

According to Dr. Rena D’Souza, Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), ARPA-H would enable the NIDCR to “challenge the status quo, aim for the extraordinary and deliver the scientific and clinical evidence necessary to improve dental, oral, and craniofacial health.”

The AADOOCR strongly urges you to co-sponsor the ARPA–H Act to help accelerate translational research that has the potential to revolutionize how we prevent, treat, and cure a range of diseases.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Fox, DMD, DMSc  
Chief Executive Officer