



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

January 14, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to inform you of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plan to establish the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and to abolish the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR).

NIH has the potential to play a critical and catalytic role in advancing the translational sciences. The agency is expertly equipped to leverage its extant and emerging programs and resources to promote progress in this area. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, NIH is even better poised to deploy these resources. The provisions of the Act that authorize the NIH to establish a Cures Acceleration Network (CAN) equip the agency with flexibility to carry out therapeutic development projects. This underscores the expectation by Congress and the American public that NIH is to play a leading role in realizing the promise of translational medicine and advancing human health.

NCATS would encompass several extant NIH programs, such as the Molecular Libraries Program, Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases Program, NIH Rapid Access to Interventional Development Program, the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), and the NIH-FDA Regulatory Science Initiative. These programs, which are currently located across NIH, are ideally suited to the goals of translating basic discoveries into therapeutics. Reorganizing these components within a single Center will propel translational science more swiftly. CAN would also be located in the new Center.

Any functions at NCRR that do not involve translational science will be transferred to other Institutes or Centers, as appropriate, resulting in the abolishment of NCRR. To make these assessments, NIH will undertake a thorough scientific review of NCRR programs.

Funding for this new organization is intended to come from existing resources of the programs that would move to NCATS. NIH will provide details of this reorganization once they have been finalized. NIH seeks to implement its plan at the beginning of FY 2012 in October 2011.

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Thank you for your continued interest and support of NIH's activities. I have sent a similar letter to Ranking Member Cochran, Chairman Rehberg, and Ranking Member Dicks. Concurrent with this letter, we are also notifying the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, as required by section 401 of the Public Health Service Act regarding the reorganization of institutes.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Sebelius".

Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosures
Current Organizational Chart
Proposed Organizational Chart



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January 14, 2011

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dicks:

I am writing to inform you of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plan to establish the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and to abolish the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR).

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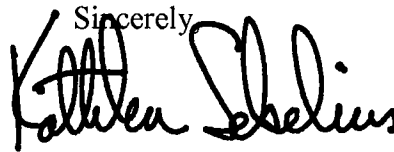
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Kathleen Sebelius

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The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

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