



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

June 6, 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 Chairman Harkin:

On January 14 of this year, I wrote to inform you that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) planned to establish the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and to abolish the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR). I am writing to you again to provide you with information on these planned organizational changes at NIH and request that the changes be incorporated as the Appropriations Committee proceeds on its FY 2012 legislation.

The establishment of NCATS will advance translational sciences by accelerating the development and delivery of new and more effective diagnostics and therapeutics. NCATS is expected to offer innovative approaches to the development pipeline, provide novel approaches to diagnostics and therapeutics development, stimulate new avenues for basic scientific discovery, and complement existing NIH and private sector research. In determining which activities would be organized within the new center and the new location of NCRR programs not directly related to translational sciences, NIH established a taskforce which carefully identified and evaluated program placements that would improve organizational efficiencies and provide scientific synergies. To aid in the decision-making, the taskforce implemented a transparent process to collect and consider input from a wide range of internal and external experts, as well as stakeholders ranging from members of the public to members of the extramural research community. As the deliberations progressed, NIH made information available to the public through a feedback page available on its website.

NIH has made tremendous progress in improving public health through biomedical discoveries and is now in an exciting position to advance diagnostics and therapeutics development by enhancing the process of translating fundamental knowledge into new clinical applications. The organizational changes and realignment of resources described to establish NCATS are planned for implementation in FY 2012 and would be operationalized within the funding level identified for NIH in the FY 2012 President's Budget.

The enclosed table details the impact of the Institute and Center specific organizational and budgetary realignment that would result from establishing NCATS and relocating programs

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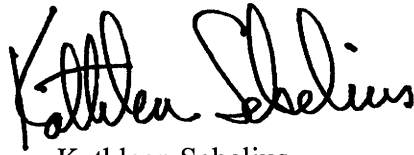
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currently within NCCR. The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this information.

I appreciate your continued interest in and support of biomedical research at NIH. I would be happy to answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosures (1)

