Allie Williams, President & CEO
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1204
Bethesda, MD 20814
T (301) 652-4900   C (301) 768-2212
AWilliams@greaterbethesdachamber.org
www.greaterbethesdachamber.org

Monday, November 28, 2022

Dear Council President Albornoz and Councilmembers,

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce would like to express its strong support for the $15 million supplemental funding request in support of the Institute for Health Computing partnership between the County, Universities of Maryland, College Park and Baltimore and University of Maryland Medical System ("Universities").

This critical funding is a down payment on what will become a global center of excellence in computationally enabled life sciences research. Bringing the Universities' world-class researchers to North Bethesda to grow this institute will provide a much-needed catalyst to spur further economic growth in the Pike District and greater North Bethesda, helping the County to achieve the potential envisioned by the award-winning 2010 White Flint Sector Plan. The Institute for Health Computing can be another big step forward toward achieving that goal.

This partnership between the County and the Universities should not only attract the attention of private sector businesses, but with its proximity to the National Institutes of Health, the Institute for Health Computing will be attractive to federal agencies. Specifically, this partnership will be a selling point for attracting the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

The Greater Bethesda Chamber enthusiastically supports the economic development advantages that the Institute for Health Computing will bring to North Bethesda and the County and encourages the Council to support the requested supplemental appropriation.

Sincerely,

Allie Williams

cc: Ellen Coren, Andy Shulman, Russell Lacey