

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 6, 2026

Donald Trump  
The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

cc: Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, Director, National Institutes of Health and Dr. Alicia Jackson, Director, ARPA-H

Dear President Trump and Secretary Kennedy,

The Massachusetts Delegation writes with urgency to request an immediate explanation and justification for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)'s reported decision to issue a stop-work order and notice of intent to terminate and wind down the ARPA-H Investor Catalyst Hub.

We strongly supported the \$1.5 billion in funding for ARPA-H that was included in the FY26 appropriations legislation the President signed into law on February 3, 2026. This investment reflects Congress's continued commitment to advancing high-impact biomedical innovation,<sup>[1]</sup> and aligns with the administration's stated emphasis on accelerating breakthroughs in treatments and cures, including recent executive action aimed at leveraging AI to unlock new cures for childhood cancer and other serious diseases.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Investor Catalyst Hub, based in the greater Boston area, plays a central role in ensuring promising innovations can successfully transition from federal investment into real-world treatments and cures, and it was strategically located in Massachusetts given the Commonwealth's globally recognized life sciences and biotechnology ecosystem, deep venture capital networks, and unmatched concentration of research institutions, hospitals, and health innovators.

Congressional intent regarding this hub-and-spoke structure is clear. In formally authorizing ARPA-H, Congress directed that the agency "shall have offices or facilities in not less than 3 geographic areas" and required that hub locations be selected through fair and open consideration of how they would advance ARPA-H's goals and functions. Moreover, both the House and Senate FY26 Labor-H reports emphasized that speeding the translation of innovative health technologies to market is essential to ARPA-H's success and depends on meaningful

collaboration among researchers, entrepreneurs, and investors nationwide. The Committees specifically recognized the Investor Catalyst Hub's role in building a robust commercialization network and highlighted its work delivering entrepreneurial assistance, market readiness programming, and innovation sprints—urging ARPA-H to provide continued funding for the Investor Catalyst Hub in fiscal year 2026.

In that context, it is deeply concerning to hear reports that ARPA-H has issued a stop-work order and notice of intent to terminate its agreement with the consortium management firm in charge of the Investor Catalyst Hub. Disrupting the Investor Catalyst Hub in this manner could hinder ARPA-H's ability to effectively advance its innovation mission and delay progress toward critical treatments and cures, raising serious questions about transparency and continuity in the agency's work.

At this stage, terminating the Investor Catalyst Hub's work would be a profound mistake and a blatant waste of taxpayer dollars and federal investment, especially given that the Hub has been fully operational for two years and is already producing clear, tangible returns. With Congress' support, the Investor Catalyst Hub was created precisely to ensure that ARPA-H-funded breakthroughs do not stall out in the lab but instead move efficiently toward real-world deployment. The Investor Catalyst Hub is already deeply involved in projects focused on improving cancer surgery, deploying hospital-level care to rural areas, and diagnosing and treating lymphatic diseases, all work at risk of being lost should the Hub's work be terminated (See Appendix 1 for more details).

Over the past year alone, the Hub has accelerated commercialization readiness across ARPA-H programs by providing hands-on mentorship, connecting innovators to specialized expertise, and building the market pathways necessary for federally funded solutions to succeed beyond the life of a grant. Halting this work now would squander years of federal investment, disrupt momentum midstream, and undermine ARPA-H's core mission of translating high-impact research into treatments and cures that actually reach the American people.

Given the significant federal investment at stake and the potential disruption to ARPA-H's mission, we urge the agency to immediately provide a clear justification for this action, along with a congressional briefing and a detailed contingency plan outlining how ARPA-H intends to maintain continuity of the Investor Catalyst Hub's work.

**We request this information be provided to the Massachusetts Delegation no later than Friday, February 13, 2026.**

We stand ready to engage constructively, but given the magnitude of federal investment and the stakes for patients, we expect a timely and complete response. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



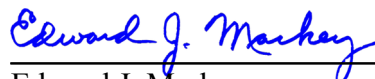
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Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

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<sup>[1]</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, § Division B, Title II, “Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health” (H.R. 7148, 119th Cong.).

<sup>[2]</sup> Exec. Order No. 14355, Unlocking Cures for Pediatric Cancer With Artificial Intelligence, 90 Fed. Reg. 48153 (Oct. 7, 2025).

## **Appendix 1. Selected Active Investor Catalyst Hub Supported Programs and Projects at Risk of Disruption**

<b>ARPA-H Program/ Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Investor Catalyst Hub Role</b>
Precision Surgical Interventions (PSI)	Precision Surgical Interventions (PSI) aims to help all surgical procedures reach their intended goal with no errors and no need for re-operation. The program aims to develop solutions to two major surgical problems: tumor edge visualization and critical anatomy visualization.	The Investor Catalyst Hub supports the PSI program in the validation of technologies that aid surgeons to complete procedures with high accuracy, dramatically reducing inadvertent errors and reoperation rates. The Investor Catalyst Hub supports validation team recruitment, negotiations, contracting, and management of validation team subcontractors.
The Platform Accelerating Rural Access to Distributed and InteGrated Medical Care (PARADIGM)	The PARADIGM program aims to address the current challenges in rural health by creating a scalable vehicle platform that can provide advanced medical services outside of a hospital setting. Building on recent developments in fields ranging from satellite communication to medical device miniaturization, this mobile care platform will allow health providers to meet rural patients where they are.	The Investor Catalyst Hub supports the PARADIGM program in the development of a sustainable and compliant HTM model, perform independent device evaluations, design a problem reporting and risk management system, and advise on infection prevention protocols suitable for mobile and distributed care environments. The Investor Catalyst Hub supports by identifying and managing providers for the design and implementation of key safety, sourcing, and quality frameworks for mobile healthcare delivery systems.

<b>ARPA-H Program/ Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Investor Catalyst Hub Role</b>
<p>Groundbreaking Lymphatic Interventions and Drug Exploration (GLIDE) &amp; Lymphatic Imaging, Genomics, and Phenotyping Technologies (LIGHT)</p>	<p>The LIGHT program seeks comprehensive diagnostic solutions across three technical areas: diagnosis and monitoring through biomarker discovery; imaging technologies; and prevention, prediction, and diagnostic confirmation through genetics, epigenetics, and models of lymphatic dysfunction.</p> <p>GLIDE is designed to be complementary to the diagnostics of the LIGHT program where collaboration, integration and cross-pollination of ideas will lead to the development of an entirely new field of lymphatic medicine with affordable, accessible interventions to repair the lymphatic system and treat chronic diseases.</p>	<p>The Investor Catalyst Hub supports the GLIDE and LIGHT program in building the ARPA-H's Lymphatics Collective, an innovative centralized biospecimen repository to support the efforts of LIGHT and GLIDE performers throughout their period of performance. ARPA-H's Lymphatics Collective will be managed by an academic medical center with established infrastructure who will be responsible for developing a management framework for the biorepository and managing the sample sourcing from providers, supply chain, and distribution and material transfer agreements with performers. This model has the potential to be sustained beyond LIGHT and GLIDE periods of performance through a potential data commons and sustained financing beyond the life of ARPA-H's LIGHT and GLIDE programs.</p>

<b>ARPA-H Program/ Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Investor Catalyst Hub Role</b>
Proactive Health Office (PHO)	<p>The PHO at ARPA-H seeks solutions to improve the healthspan and health outcomes of Americans prior to the onset of disease and/or the development of diminished quality of life from illness. Specifically, PHO hypothesizes that 1) population-level improvements in access to and uptake of disease prevention and wellness-promoting behaviors and 2) development of novel early-detection methods and prophylactic interventions could drastically improve the health of American throughout their lives, and 3) that system level innovations are required for delivery of proactive health effectively.</p>	<p>The Investor Catalyst Hub supports the Proactive Health Office through the convening of the Forum for Food Allergy - a network of food allergy experts - to support problem formation and identify high impact areas of focus for food allergy innovation and investment in order to advance ARPA-H's Proactive Health Office mission.</p>
Small Business Program	<p>The ARPA-H Small Business Program uses innovative funding mechanisms, featuring a streamlined application and review process compared to traditional pathways. Funding is available through Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) awards and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. Awards are generally issued in the form of contracts and exact award amounts vary and depend on meeting ambitious milestones, consistent with ARPA-H's approach.</p>	<p>The Investor Catalyst Hub supports ARPA-H Small Business Program performers and alumni in accelerating their investor readiness by drawing on the Investor Catalyst Hub's established entrepreneurship training curriculum, leveraging our expert staff and mentors-in-residence for a hands-on, intensive, personalized experience, and creating a purpose-built network to support active and alumni performers in securing early stage investment.</p>

<b>ARPA-H Program/ Project/Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Investor Catalyst Hub Role</b>
Launchpad	<p>Launchpad is a 6-month program that aims to accelerate transformative health solutions reaching the public by providing wraparound capabilities, expertise and programming to accelerate their existing ARPA-H-funded innovation to market.</p> <p>Launchpad seeks to advance a performer's transition readiness by pairing structured education on business model development and validation, customer discovery, and investor readiness and access to mentors, experts, and investors.</p> <p>Launchpad intends to mitigate business and market risks for ARPA-H funded solutions to ensure they are positioned to successfully enter the commercial market and achieve a return on investment.</p>	<p>The Investor Catalyst Hub implements the ARPA-H Launchpad program and advances Launchpad cohorts of up to ten ARPA-H performers through the program every six months.</p>