

## - Friends of The All of Us Research Program -

June 24, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin Chair Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt Chair Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

## We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) *All of Us* Research Program and to respectfully request that it be funded at \$541 million for Fiscal Year 2025.

The *All of Us* Research Program is designed to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. By taking into account individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biology, the program aims to uncover paths toward delivering precision medicine—tailored to the individual.

The program's diverse cohort is critical to its success. Historically, medical research has not always been representative of the population at large, leading to gaps in knowledge and care. *All of Us* is committed to including participants from all walks of life, including those who have

been historically underrepresented in biomedical research. This inclusivity is essential for ensuring that the findings of the research are applicable to everyone and can lead to more equitable healthcare solutions and improved public health outcomes.

The program is still working towards the goal of enrolling 1 million participants, yet it is already delivering results to participants and the scientific/medical community. More than 100,000 participants have received personalized health-related DNA reports from the program, with information about hereditary disease risk and how their bodies process certain medications. Through these reports, *All of Us* provided potentially life-saving information about the genetic risk of cancers, heart disease, or other conditions to more than 2,000 participants already. Researchers and institutions from all fifty states have signed up to utilize the *All of Us* dataset. As a result, researchers have initiated more than 10,000 projects using *All of Us* data and published hundreds of papers in peer-reviewed journals – on cancer, diabetes, kidney health, heart disease, depression, glaucoma, COVID-19, alcohol and substance use, physical activity, and other topics. Just recently, the program reported the discovery of 275 million previously unknown genetic variants from data shared by *All of Us* participants, a massive tranche that may offer new clues about genetic influences on health and disease.

Much more work remains before the full potential of *All of Us* can be realized. This includes the active recruitment of children into the cohort to improve the health of children and to better understand conditions that onset in adulthood but are rooted in childhood. However, decreased funding in Fiscal Year 2024 now threatens the program and the scientific breakthroughs envisioned for the program. In FY24, *All of Us* received \$357 million representing a decrease of \$184 million (34%) compared to last year's appropriation. According to the program's leadership, this decrease in funding will have a substantial impact, including: a decrease in the rate of new enrollments, a delay in the launch of pediatric enrollment, and a slowing of new data collection.

Unless Congress acts to avert similar funding cuts in Fiscal Year 2025, the program could face another decrease in funding equal to \$199 million. Should that happen it would represent a 71% cut over two fiscal years and would necessitate further decisions to scale back or forgo key elements of the program.

Funding the *All of Us* Research Program at \$541 million in FY 2025 will enable it to continue its vital work, including expanding participant enrollment, enhancing data collection and analysis capabilities, and fostering collaborations with researchers across the country. The investment in this program is an investment in the future of health, potentially leading to innovations that can reduce costs and health inequities, improve patient outcomes, and save lives.

We urge you to support this funding request and help ensure the *All of Us* Research Program can fulfill its mission to improve health for all people living in the United States. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to advancing medical research and public health.

## Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association ACCESS American Academy of Pediatrics American Academy of Physician Associates American Association of Colleges of Nursing American Pediatric Society American Public Health Association Association of Medical School Pediatric **Department Chairs** Black Greek Letter Consortium Black Nurses Association of Greater Houston **Brooklyn Community Pride Center** Center on Halsted CenterLink: The Community of LGBTQ Centers Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research Colorado Rural Health Center **Community Council of Greater Dallas Dillard University Community and Church** Relations Epsilon Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc Golden Change, Inc. Greater NYC Black Nurses Association Healthy Americas Foundation Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) LGBT Detroit Marshfield Clinic Health System Maryland Rural Health Association

Mass General Brigham Mexican Coalition National Alliance for Hispanic Health National Association of Hispanic Nurses National Association of Hispanic Nurses DC Metro Chapter National Association of Hispanic Nurses NAHN Dallas National Black Nurses Association, Inc National Hispanic Council on Aging National Hispanic Medical Association National Rural Health Association NC Public Health Association Nevada Public Health Association New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce (NORBCC, Inc.) Northwestern University Ohio Public Health Association Past-President National Association of Hispanic Nurses Pearls of Humanity Foundation Pediatric Policy Council Project Seek of Louisiana Seven Star Academy, Inc. Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois (SCDAI) Society for Pediatric Research Southern University at Shreveport Southwest Family Medicine Texas AHEC East - Waco Region The Cobb Institute UnidosUS Valle del Sol Inc Vanderbilt University Medical Center YMCA of the Capital Area