

MARCIA L. FUDGE
11TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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April 11, 2017

Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable
Director
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
6707 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 800
Bethesda, MD 20892-5465

Dear Director Pérez-Stable:

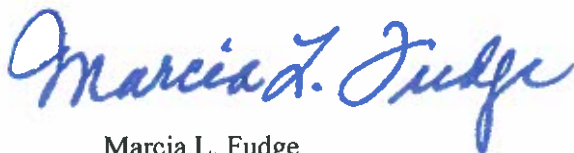
I write to express my strong support for the application of Dr. Ashwini Sehgal, Duncan Neuhauser Professor of Community Health Improvement at Case Western Reserve University, to establish a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Center of Excellence in Cleveland, OH.

Improving minority health and reducing health disparities are critical needs for the 11th District of Ohio. Although the 11th District has some of the world's leading healthcare institutions and researchers, the District suffers from some of the largest health disparities in our nation. In partnership with University Hospitals, MetroHealth, and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, the proposed Center of Excellence will address key health disparity challenges felt by residents of the 11th District. Other key partners on this proposal include the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, the Massage Practice-Based Research Network, the West Side Community House, UHCAN Ohio, Asian Services in Action, and the United Way.

Dr. Sehgal has put together an excellent, proved team to lead this effort. With previous funding from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Sehgal's group published 82 peer-reviewed research articles, helped individuals and organizations in Cleveland obtain a dozen new federal health disparity grants, provided research cultural competency training to 275 researchers, and trained 9 employees of community organizations in research and evaluation skills. I believe this team will effectively lead a NIMHD Center of Excellence.

Thank you for your full consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Nasta in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-7032. I look forward to hearing from you on the status of this application and the Institute's final decision.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress