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I am writing in support of the continued maintenance and use of the NIH electronic application system for discretionary Certificates of Confidentiality (CoCs).

This system is an important tool for protecting sensitive, identifiable research data from compelled disclosure. Concerns about data privacy are increasingly prominent in the public discourse, thus having a reliable and accessible mechanism for researchers to request CoCs is essential to maintaining public trust in the research process.

The ability to safeguard participants' personal information helps ensure ethical research practices and encourages participation in studies that contribute to public health and scientific advancement. The electronic system streamlines this process, making it easier for researchers to uphold these protections.

I encourage NIH to continue supporting and enhancing this system, recognizing its role in promoting privacy, data security, and public confidence in research.