



Charles N. Kahn III  
President and CEO

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chair  
U.S. Senate Finance Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Finance Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
U.S. Senate HELP Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate HELP Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Wyden and Murray & Ranking Members Crapo and Burr:

On behalf of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), the national representative for over 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States, I would like to express our strong support for the nomination and confirmation of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to serve as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

FAH members provide patients and communities with access to high-quality, affordable care in both urban and rural America. Our members include teaching and non-teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children's, and cancer services.

Throughout his distinguished career in government at both the federal and state level, Secretary-designate Becerra has demonstrated his capability to lead HHS at one of the most pivotal and challenging moments in our nation's history. Having the pleasure of knowing him for more than twenty years, I am confident that Secretary-designate Becerra's proven leadership, experience and expertise will successfully guide him as the nation seeks to defeat COVID-19.

Along with efforts to overcome the pandemic, Secretary-designate Becerra has the first-hand experience necessary to bolster and strengthen the *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* – from

helping to craft the landmark legislation to defending it as Attorney General of California. Secretary-designate Becerra has a keen understanding of how the ACA, if fully and properly implemented, can reach its true potential.

Secretary-designate Becerra is, first and foremost, a champion for patients. A seasoned public servant, his lifelong commitment and dedication to public health will help him confront the many challenges that face us, from achieving health equity to reducing the cost of prescription drugs to reinforcing access to care in rural and underserved communities. He is highly qualified, time-tested, and will be ready on day 1.

The Federation of American Hospitals urges the Senate Finance and HELP Committees to approve Secretary-designate Becerra's nomination expeditiously, and we support his confirmation by the full U.S. Senate.

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If you have any questions or wish to speak further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 202-624-1534.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Rosenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "M".