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February 8, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Wyden, Crapo, Murray and Burr:

On behalf of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) I am writing in support of the nomination of Xavier Becerra as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACCP is a professional and scientific society that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources enabling clinical pharmacists to achieve excellence in patient care practice and research. ACCP's membership is composed of over 20,000 clinical pharmacists, residents, fellows, students, scientists, educators and others who are committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy practice and evidence-based pharmacotherapy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented burdens on our nation's health delivery infrastructure. As communities across the country struggle to respond to the COVID pandemic, a comprehensive strategy to ensure a truly team-based, patient-centered approach to patient care, consistent with evolving integrated delivery models, must be prioritized.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, pharmacists have been at the forefront of our nation's response efforts. This includes the vital work early in the pandemic to help scale up testing capabilities, and now pharmacists and pharmacies are at the center of the largest mass-vaccination in history.

Beyond the urgent work of pharmacists on the front lines of the pandemic response effort, clinical pharmacists typically practice as fully integrated members of the health care team, working under formal collaborative practice agreements or institutional privileges, to assume full responsibility for managing patients' medication therapies.

Qualified clinical pharmacists are usually residency trained and are certified as specialists by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) to fully manage complex drug therapies on behalf of chronically ill patients as part of clinical care teams. In California, state pharmacy practice regulations specifically recognize qualified clinical providers as Advance Practice Pharmacists (APP)

## **Providing Leadership in Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Research**

American College of Clinical Pharmacy • 13000 W. 87th St. Parkway • Lenexa KS 66215-4530 • (913) 492-3311  
Michael S. Maddux, Pharm.D., FCCP, Executive Director

who are responsible for delivering clinical services well beyond the important work of dispensing medications.

Comprehensive medication management (CMM) refers to the direct patient care process provided by clinical pharmacists working as formal members of the patient's health care team that has been demonstrated to significantly improve clinical outcomes and enhance the safety of medication use by patients.

As we reach a new stage in the global fight to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and address the sequelae of unaddressed health issues resulting from care avoidance during the pandemic, the issue of managing the safe and appropriate delivery of medications across an entire population takes center stage. This context provides a unique opportunity to improve patient care and decrease overall healthcare spending by advancing practice models that include CMM - the patient working in collaboration with the physician and a qualified clinical pharmacist.

Thank you for your ongoing bi-partisan leadership on behalf of the country at this time. We urge swift confirmation of Attorney General Becerra as HHS Secretary. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with your respective staff to provide expertise on comprehensive medication management as we collectively work to advance health care delivery models that ensure value and high quality patient outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McHale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Director, Government Affairs**

Cc: Michael S. Maddux, Pharm.D. FCCP, Executive Director