



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC  
20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Health, Education, Labor, Pension Committee  
Washington, DC  
20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC  
20515

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Health, Education, Labor, Pension Committee  
Washington, DC  
20515

Dear Chairman, Chairwoman, and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing more than 136,700 family physicians, residents, and medical students across the country, I write to offer support for the nomination of Xavier Becerra to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Mr. Becerra has long been a champion of ensuring all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable health care. As a member of Congress, Representative Becerra helped to pass the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and eliminate the flawed Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate. As Attorney General of California, he defended the ACA against [legal challenges](#) in the case of *Texas v. United States*. The AAFP [supports](#) this shared vision for meaningful and affordable health care coverage and stands ready to work with Mr. Becerra to further build on the ACA's successes and further improve our health care system in his new role with HHS.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten our communities, swift action to confirm the Secretary of HHS is urgently needed to ensure the agency is best-equipped to respond to the pandemic. Physicians and patients alike are looking to HHS for clear public health guidance, and they are counting on HHS to obtain and deliver COVID-19 vaccines to save lives and keep our communities healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for the nomination of Mr. Becerra for HHS Secretary. If you have additional questions, please reach out to David Tully, Director of Government Relations, at [dtully@aafp.org](mailto:dtully@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

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**STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA**

<b>President</b> Ada Stewart, MD <i>Columbia, SC</i>	<b>President-elect</b> Sterling Ransone, MD <i>Deltaville, VA</i>	<b>Board Chair</b> Gary LeRoy, MD <i>Dayton, OH</i>	<b>Directors</b> James Ellzy, MD, <i>Washington, DC</i> Dennis Gingrich, MD, <i>Hershey, PA</i> Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, <i>Bay Shore, NY</i> Andrew Carroll, MD, <i>Chandler, AZ</i> Steven Furr, MD, <i>Jackson, AL</i> Margot Savoy, MD, <i>Media, PA</i>	Jennifer Brull, MD, <i>Plainville, KS</i> Mary Campagnolo, MD, <i>Borderntown, NJ</i> Todd Shaffer, MD, <i>Lee's Summit, MO</i> Danielle Carter, MD (New Physician Member), <i>Jacksonville, FL</i> Anna Askari, MD (Resident Member), <i>Palm Desert, CA</i> Cynthia Ciccotelli (Student Member), <i>Yardley, PA</i>
<b>Speaker</b> Alan Schwartzstein, MD <i>Oregon, WI</i>	<b>Vice Speaker</b> Russell Kohl, MD <i>Stilwell, KS</i>	<b>Executive Vice President</b> R. Shawn Martin <i>Leawood, KS</i>		

*Gary L. LeRoy, MD, FAAFP*

Gary L. LeRoy, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair, American Academy of Family Physicians

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