



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Wyden, and Ranking Members Burr and Crapo,

On behalf of our more than 300 member hospitals and health systems, America's Essential Hospitals extends our support for the nomination and confirmation of Xavier Becerra as Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary.

America's Essential Hospitals is the leading champion for hospitals and health systems dedicated to high-quality care for all, including vulnerable populations. Filling a vital role in their communities, our more than 300 member hospitals provide a disproportionate share of the nation's uncompensated care, and three-quarters of their patients are uninsured or covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Our members provide state-of-the-art, patient-centered care while operating on margins a third that of other hospitals—2.5 percent on average compared with 7.6 percent for all hospitals nationwide.¹

We believe Becerra is uniquely qualified to lead HHS at this critical time. He has worked on significant health care issues throughout his career and has a deep understanding of the process and executive decision-making that comes with serving in leadership positions. Becerra has spent his career defending key programs of importance to essential hospitals and their communities, including Medicare and Medicaid. Most recently, in his role as attorney general of California, Becerra defended the 340B Drug Pricing Program and championed important protections for immigrant communities. During his tenure as a member of Congress, Becerra demonstrated a deep commitment to ensuring access to health care for all Americans.

We are confident Becerra will be a champion for the nation's health and bring a comprehensive approach to combatting the COVID-19 public health emergency. America's Essential Hospitals looks forward to working with him to address the pressing health issues of importance to our

¹ Clark D, Roberson B, Ramiah K. *Essential Data: Our Hospitals, Our Patients—Results of America's Essential Hospitals 2018 Annual Member Characteristics Survey*. America's Essential Hospitals. May 2020. <https://essentialdata.info>. Accessed January 25, 2021.

member hospitals and their communities. We urge the full Senate to approve his nomination as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Siegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and CEO