

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

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

Dear Chairman Wyden, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Crapo, and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA), I offer our wholehearted endorsement of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to become the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ANA is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's 4.2 million registered nurses, through its state and constituent member associations, organizational affiliates, and individual members. ANA members also include the four advanced practice registered nurse roles (APRNs); Nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). ANA is dedicated to partnering with health care consumers, the Congress, and the Administration to improve practices, policies, delivery models, outcomes, and access across the health care continuum. ANA had the opportunity to work with Congressman Becerra during his time in Congress and it is our experience he shares our dedication to this cause.

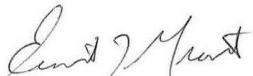
While a member of the Health Subcommittee on the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Becerra championed many issues important to nurses, other health care providers, and patients. These included repealing the sustainable growth rate, repealing the per-beneficiary Medicare spending limits on therapy services, promoting value-based payment models, lowering prescription drug prices, and making health care more affordable and accessible to everyone.

As California Attorney General, Mr. Becerra has defended the Affordable Care Act and essential health benefits. He fought against hospital consolidation and short-term junk insurance plans which make health care more expensive for consumers. His experience running the Department of Justice in America's largest state instills confidence that he is very capable of running one of the largest

government agencies in the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further he is a historic choice whose own experiences allow him to personally understand the health care disparities in our system that have ravaged minority communities across the country.

If you have any questions or require additional information concerning the above endorsement, please feel free to contact me or Sam Hewitt, ANA's senior associate director of policy and government affairs at samuel.hewitt@ana.org.

Sincerely,



Ernest Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN
President
American Nurses Association