



January 20, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

The American Physical Therapy Association would like to express its support for Xavier Becerra as the Biden Administration's nominee for the position of Secretary of Health and Human Services.

APTA is a professional organization representing 100,000 member physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy. Building a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society is our mission.

President-Elect Biden made a wise choice in the selection of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to lead the department at this time, as the country continues to address the array of challenges the pandemic presents. During his 12 terms in Congress and as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Attorney General Becerra spent much of his time working on health care issues impacting U.S. citizens.

As a congressman, Attorney General Becerra was a staunch advocate for access to health care services. He helped lead a successful effort to eliminate arbitrary caps on seniors' access to necessary outpatient physical therapy services and championed legislation to ultimately remedy this issue for millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

In addition to his experience on health care matters, Attorney General Becerra brings his experience as an administrator, having run the California Department of Justice since 2017. In this position he addressed an array of health and other matters that prepare him well to handle the significant challenges of running an agency as large and diverse as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Finally, as a Latino he brings to the agency knowledge of the disparities in access to health services in the U.S. He is well positioned to address these disparities to ensure the improving health of the nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Justin Elliott, vice president, government affairs, at justinelliott@apta.org or 703-706-3161. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon L. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon L. Dunn, PT, PhD
Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy
President