



February 22, 2021

Members of the Committee on Finance
Members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 4.4 million members of the Alliance for Retired Americans, I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Xavier Becerra for Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and urge his prompt confirmation. Mr. Becerra is eminently qualified for this position. He has more than three decades of experience in health care policy and deep familiarity with HHS programs. While a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Becerra served on the Ways and Means Committee, including the Health Subcommittee, which has oversight responsibility for Medicare and worked on health care delivery and financing policies. He was a leader in the enactment of the Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid which vastly increased the number of Americans with access to quality, affordable health care. This has led to improvements in health outcomes for our members and older Americans.

As the California Attorney General, Mr. Becerra has fought to protect frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic by issuing emergency temporary standards to reduce the risk of contracting the disease. He also helped protect consumers by penalizing hospitals for anti-competitive behavior.

Mr. Becerra has also been an active and effective advocate for lowering drug prices. Seniors proportionately spend more than other age groups on prescription drugs. His work has positively affected the economic and health security of our members. He and a bipartisan group of state Attorneys General have sued to hold drug corporations responsible for their role in the opioid epidemic. Mr. Becerra was also instrumental in the passage of legislation in California to stop pay-for-delay kickbacks that keep many drug prices artificially high and a leader in the battle to uphold the Affordable Care Act and protect the health care coverage of millions of patients.

Mr. Becerra is the right nominee to become the nation's next Secretary of Health and Human Services, especially during this pandemic. The Alliance for Retired Americans urges the Senate to confirm him as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Fiesta Executive Director