



One Voice, One Vision

January 21, 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 Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) would like to express its support for Xavier Becerra as the Biden Administration's nominee for the position of Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ASCLS urges his swift confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in health care through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine. ASCLS represents medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians who are the backbone of our nation's diagnostic health care system.

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 twelve terms in Congress, Attorney General Becerra spent much of his time working on health care issues impacting U.S. citizens as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

As a Congressman, Attorney General Becerra was a staunch advocate for access to health care services. Clinical laboratory scientists have a critical health care role to play and we must ensure access to clinical laboratory services is unfettered especially during this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The ongoing shortage of laboratory personnel in the U.S. should be of great concern as we address the current pandemic and future access to high quality laboratory diagnostic services.

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 the first Latino to head the agency, 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, including workforce disparities, to ensure the improving health of the nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maddie Josephs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maddie Josephs, MS, MLS(ASCP)
President