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February 08, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo,

The Cancer Support Community (CSC), an international nonprofit organization that provides support, education, and hope to cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones, supports the nomination of the Honorable Xavier Becerra to serve as the next Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). While serving as a United States Congressman and as the Attorney General of California, Mr. Becerra continuously protected the rights of patients both state and nationwide. We are confident that he will do the same as Secretary of HHS.

Throughout his career, Mr. Becerra has always put patients first, including those impacted by cancer. Mr. Becerra was a proud co-sponsor of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (ACA) and actively worked to pass this landmark legislation. As a member of Congress, he steadfastly fought to protect and preserve the ACA by voting at least nine times against efforts to repeal and replace the law. He also sponsored the *E-Centives Act*, which provided incentives for Medicaid providers to improve quality of care by implementing electronic health records.

Most recently, as Attorney General of California, Mr. Becerra led a coalition of over 20 state Attorneys General in defending the ACA against an effort to repeal the entire law in the Supreme Court case, *California v. Texas*. In their brief, the coalition underscored the substantial advancements in access to health care made under the ACA, including Medicaid expansion which has provided coverage to nearly 15 million Americans (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2020), and guaranteed protections for as many as 133 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, such as cancer (Department of Health and Human Services, 2017). Mr. Becerra has long stressed that the ACA is the backbone of our health care system and that if it were to be struck down, it will impact the ability of many Americans to access and afford health coverage, especially during a global pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly strained our nation's health care system and continues to have an enormous impact on the continuity of care for people impacted by cancer. HHS needs a strong leader at the helm who can implement policies that will protect patients both now during these challenging times and in the future. Mr. Becerra's record in advocating for

policies that will strengthen the health and well-being of patients makes him the right person for this ever-important position at this consequential time in history. Therefore, we urge you to confirm Mr. Xavier Becerra as the next Secretary of HHS.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions about our support for Mr. Becerra's nomination, please contact me at (202) 552-6762 or pwoods@cancersupportcommunity.org.

Sincerely,



Phylicia L. Woods, JD, MSW
Executive Director – Cancer Policy Institute
Cancer Support Community Headquarters

References

Department of Health and Human Services. 2017. *Health Insurance Coverage for Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions: The Impact of the Affordable Care Act*. Retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/255396/Pre-ExistingConditions.pdf>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2020. *Potential Impact of California v. Texas Decision on Key Provisions of the Affordable Care Act*. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/potential-impact-of-california-v-texas-decision-on-key-provisions-of-the-affordable-care-act/>.