



February 11, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of Community Health Centers and the 30 million patients they serve, I want to express my support for Attorney General Xavier Becerra's nomination to be the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge health centers across the country and strong leadership at the department is necessary to tackle this ongoing crisis.

Attorney General Becerra has a long-established relationship with California health centers and NACHC. As a former Member of Congress from Los Angeles, and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he consistently sought feedback from local health center leadership through roundtable events and regular communications with the Los Angeles Community Clinic Consortium.

Additionally, he regularly attended health center events throughout the district and then acted to support health center priorities. These connections were incredibly important since his congressional district included 30 health centers that collectively serve nearly 250,000 patients. NACHC was pleased to recognize this work in support of health centers by awarding Becerra with the Distinguished Community Health Advocate Award during his time in Congress.

Federally qualified health centers across the country are working every day to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, over 8 million health center patients have been tested for COVID-19, 13% have tested positive and 140,000 immunizations have been initiated. A significant number of these patients are racial and/or ethnic minorities, who are bearing a disproportionate brunt of this crisis. Attorney General Becerra's experience representing one of

the most diverse Congressional Districts will be critical to ensuring that all Americans have access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

NACHC appreciates the expanded role that the Biden Administration envisions for health centers and looks forward to working with Attorney General Becerra should he be confirmed. His commitment to equitable access to health care and experience at the state and federal levels make him an ideal choice at this critical moment. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Van Coverden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Van Coverden
President & CEO