



February 23, 2021

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

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

RE: NAMI Support for HHS Secretary Nominee Xavier Becerra

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I am writing in support of confirmation of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness, NAMI is pleased to support this important nomination.

Attorney General Becerra has been a true leader on mental health and addiction issues, tirelessly defending the ACA and working to enforce federal & state mental health parity laws. As California's Attorney General he led efforts on the part of states to challenge measures taken by the previous Administration to undermine a series of patient protections in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Under his leadership, California also stepped up enforcement and compliance with respect to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) ensuring more equitable coverage of mental illness treatment.

In his 24 years as a Member of the House of Representatives, Congressman Becerra established a significant record of accomplishment in crafting legislation to expand access to mental health treatment. This includes improvements to the Medicare program including enhanced protections for low income beneficiaries that are concurrently eligible for Medicaid. He also led a number of efforts in Congress to prevent cuts to the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program that many people living with mental illness rely on.

NAMI is proud to support Attorney General Becerra's confirmation as HHS Secretary. We urge the Committee move expeditiously on his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel H. Gillison, Jr." in a cursive script.

Daniel H. Gillison, Jr.
CEO, The National Alliance on Mental Illness