

Feb. 9, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Murray,

On behalf of Providence, I am urging you to support Attorney General Xavier Becerra's nomination for Department of Health and Human Services Secretary. Our health system looks forward to working with Mr. Becerra in his new capacity once confirmed, as we take on critical health issues facing our nation and communities.

As the largest health care provider in Washington State, our belief that health care is a basic human right animates much of our work. We are strong proponents of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and are working to preserve coverage gains achieved through the ACA. We are leaders and innovators on community benefit and charity care, and an advocate for our country's immigrants and refugees. Last summer, Providence pledged \$50 million to end disparities in health care and we have been working diligently to reach communities of color and other populations at highest risk for COVID-19 in terms of education, testing, access to care and vaccinations. Many areas of health policy can have a profound effect on very vulnerable populations, and we are proud to be a leading voice on their behalf.

We know that Mr. Becerra shares these beliefs and priorities as well. We have had the privilege of working with Mr. Becerra during his tenure in Congress and as Attorney General in California, another state where Providence has a large footprint. We have experienced, firsthand, Mr. Becerra's leadership in ensuring access to care for vulnerable communities and addressing racial and ethnic inequities in health care.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Becerra's deserving and important nomination. Mr. Becerra is the leader our nation needs to stem the tide of the COVID-19 pandemic, expand health care access to the uninsured, and steer the nation's health care system under the new administration.

Please contact Jacquelyn Bombard, Executive Director of Federal Relations, for any follow up and to schedule a meeting. She may be reached at Jacquelyn.Bombard@providence.org or (512) 569-3105.

Sincerely,



Rod Hochman, MD
President and CEO
Providence