

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray and Senator Burr:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners, including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support the nomination of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to be the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

As California Attorney General, Becerra has led the effort to protect the Affordable Care Act and its important protections and coverage for patients. The AHA has worked with Becerra throughout his long career as a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, including as a member of the Ways and Means Committee's health subcommittee. He has been a champion for health care coverage and affordable health care, which the AHA has long supported. Throughout his time in public service, it is clear that Becerra has consistently made people across America and their health a priority.

There are many critical priorities facing the nation and the health care field. Nothing is more critical than the COVID-19 pandemic, and making sure hospitals, health systems and our heroic front-line caregivers have the resources and support they need to care for patients and win the battle against the virus. The enduring challenges of both caring for our non COVID patients and COVID patients, maintaining a healthy workforce, as well as partnering to vaccinate our country long term will require a significant partnership. We also need to make important progress on advancing the transformation of health care, ensuring access to coverage, making health care equitable to all people in America and enhancing the quality of care.

The AHA looks forward to working closely with Becerra should he be confirmed as the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to achieve our mutual mission of advancing the health of the patients and communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard J. Pollack
President and CEO

