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February 22, 2021

Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
Committee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor  
& Pensions Committee  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murray and Burr:

As advocacy organizations committed to advancing health equity, we submit the following letter in support of the nomination of Attorney General Xavier Becerra for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Attorney General Becerra is a demonstrated leader in the fight for quality, affordable health care, immigrant rights and the principles of equity and justice upon which our health system must be based. As a member of Congress from 1993-2017, Attorney General Becerra fought tirelessly to protect and expand access to affordable health care for all people, which included his leadership in the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Since then, as California's Attorney General, he has continued his tireless work to protect people's health, most notably as the lead defender of the ACA in the *California v. Texas* lawsuit, currently before the Supreme Court. He is also a longstanding champion for protecting and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health, including abortion, which is critical for advancing health equity.

Now, more than ever, we need a proven champion of health equity leading HHS. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the deep inequities that leave many Black and brown people without resources or recourse to protect their families. In particular, the pandemic has had a disproportionate and devastating impact on Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities, who face alarming rates of infection and death due to discriminatory barriers to safe work places, health coverage, and care. It has also exposed how our health system fails LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, people with disabilities, older adults, and every intersection thereof. We are confident that as HHS Secretary, Attorney General Becerra will take quick and decisive action to mitigate the harm the pandemic has caused as well to address the underlying inequities that keep our systems from serving the public fairly and well.

We further expect Attorney General Becerra to continue his commitment to working with advocates, policy makers, and agency staff to build on the important foundation the ACA has laid, including in the areas of expanded coverage, increased affordability, and improved access to quality care for all people. His leadership and expertise will also be particularly valuable in developing and implementing a plan to reverse anti-immigrant policies, including public charge

rules and non-discrimination protections for people with limited English proficiency, and to rebuilding trust between our government and immigrant communities going forward.

Attorney General Becerra is the right leader for the moment. We enthusiastically support his nomination and look forward to working with him to move our nation's health system forward with health equity and the needs of historically excluded and under-resourced communities at the center.

Thank you,

**National**

Community Catalyst

**State**

**California**

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Health Access California

**Colorado**

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights

**Florida**

Florida Policy Institute

Florida Health Justice Project

**Georgia**

The Arc Georgia

Georgians for a Healthy Future

**Illinois**

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

EverThrive Illinois

**Indiana**

Hoosier Action

**Kentucky**

Kentucky Voices for Health

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

**Massachusetts**

Health Care for All Massachusetts

Advocates

**Maryland**

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

**Maine**

Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Maine Equal Justice

**Michigan**

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)

**Minnesota**

TakeAction Minnesota

**Mississippi**

Mississippi Center for Justice

**Missouri**

Missouri Health Care For All

**North Carolina**

NC Justice Center

North Carolina AIDS Action Network

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Citizen Action

Salvation and Social Justice

**Nevada**

Children's Advocacy Alliance

**New York**

Progressive Doctors

Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need

Make the Road New York

**Ohio**

Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Policy Institute

**Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Health Access Network

CASA

**Rhode Island**

Economic Progress Institute

**South Carolina**

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

**Tennessee**

Tennessee Justice Center

Tennessee Disability Coalition

Tennessee Health Care Campaign

**Utah**

Utah Health Policy Project

**Virginia**

Virginia Organizing

Virginia Poverty Law Center

**Washington**

Northwest Health Law Advocates

**Wisconsin**

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Kids Forward

**West Virginia**

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

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